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seven annuals

'Sudan harbouring over 500 militants'

CAIRO (AFP) — The Sudanese opposition in Cairo said Monday it had documents proving more than 500 Muslim militants, most of them Egyptian, were living in Sudan. The documents "specify the residences of more than 500 extremist elements and follow their movements," the spokesman of the Unionist Democratic Party in Cairo, Mohammad Mutassim, told AFP. Mr. Mutassim said the documents consisted mainly of "canasate traces and letters". The documents consisted mainly of "cassette tapes and letters." The opposition has also counted 38 homes in Khartoum and (its sister city) Omdurman where members of fundamentalist groups live, most of the Egyptians coming from Afghanistan." The groups also included Palestinians from the Islamic resistance movement Hamas and "certain Moroccan and Algerian fundamentalists," he said, adding, "all of them hold Sudanese passports and have received Sudanese nationality." Mr. Mutassim accused the National Islamic Front, the party of Khartoum's spiritual leader Hassan Tourabi, Sudan aid organisations and "Arab charity organisations" of aiding the militants.

An independent Arab political daily pi يِّهَ عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأربنية •الراي،

AMMAN TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1995, JUMADA ULA 30, 1416

'Palestinian state not sure' — Peres

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Monday that self-rule would not necessarily lead to a fully-fledged Palestinian state, but did not spell out the alternatives. "Autonomy and interim accords will not necessarily lead to a Palestinian state and may end in something else," Mr. Peres told the Knesset, the Israeli parliament. "We have to find new formulas by creating demilitarised zones, for example, and accepting the idea of zones without sovereignty between Israel and the Palestinians. "In negotiations it is the unusual solutions which last. The final status (of the Palestinian territories) will be based on a series of totally new ideas." But Mr. Peres gave no further details, even when challenged by right-wing opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu to explain "these mysterious" ideas. "In fact this government is belping (PLO chief) Yasser Arafat to establish a Palestinian state in the heart of greater Israel," said Mr. Netanyahu, the leader of the Likud Party. Mr. Peres said Israel was not yet ready to begin the final status negotiations because the dispute over Jerusalem "would lead to an explosion."

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Volume 19 Number 6054

'King may visit israel in November'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — King Hussein is to visit Israel on Nov. 17 to take part in an award ceremony for the key negotiators of the two countries' peace treaty, Maariv newspaper reported Monday. It said King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed on the visit while in New York for ceremonies to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. The foreign ministry declined to comment on the report. Maariv said the peace prizes were to be awarded in Beit Gabriel on the shores of Sea of Galilee to negotiator Elyakim Rubinstein, now Israel's ambassador to Washington, and his Jordanian counterpart in the U.S. capital, Fayez Tarawneh.

Escaped Gaza prisoner turns himself in

GAZA CITY (AFP) - A Hamas hardliner gave himself up on Monday a day after escaping from a Gaza jail along with two other prisoners, Palestinian police said. "Imad Agel turned himself in at dawn in Gaza City," police said. A member of Izzedin Al Qassam, armed wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, Mr. Agel was arrested two months ago in possession of arms and a bomb close to the Israeli settlement of Netzarim in the self-ruled Gaza Strip. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison by a Palestinian court, General Mussa Arafat, head of the Palestinian military intelligence said. But Hamas said he had not been tried. Police are still searching for Osama Abu Taha and Yousef Malahi who escaped with Mr. Agel on Sunday after sawing through the bars on their cell window. Five police guards were Monday being ques-

Israeli jets under Lebanese fire

SIDON (AFP) — The Lebanese army fired antiaircraft guns at four Israeli warplanes which buzzed several areas of South Lebanon Monday, including strongholds of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, security sources said. Anti-aircraft batteries swung into action as the fighter-bombers carried out mock raids over Sidon. Palestinian refugee camps and the Iqlim Al Tufah ridge where Hizbollah is entrenched, they said. The Israeli planes fired several heatseeking balloons as they swooped low over the areas. north of Israel's "security zone" in South Lebanon where tension has been running high over the past week. On Sunday Hizbollah wounded an Israeli soldier in an attack in the zone, a week after killing six soldiers in an

Ato sets terms for talks with rival

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Somali faction leader Osman Hassan Ali Ato has demanded that rival Mohammad Farah Aideed first withdraw his militia forces from the southwestern town of Baidoa he seized recently before any factional meeting between the two can be held. In an apparent answer to recent efforts by clan elders, Mr. Ato also demanded that General Aideed renounce claims of being president of Somalia, dismantle militia forces he calls the national army and support a national reconciliation conference. The new clan-brokered peace effort was launched by clan elders from the Sa'ad Habr Gedir clan, to which the two men belong, headed by Mohammad Abdullahi Addow, a former cabinet of the chemical partial partia inclinated in the transfer half the dealers with the character half the transfer health and the transf

Israeli army may speed up Jenin pullout

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel could speed up its withdrawal from Jenin, the first Palestinian town to be evacuated on the West Bank under the Sept. 28 autonomy accord, a senior foreign ministry official said Monday.

"We may make an effort at the request of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to advance the date of the end of the Jenin withdrawal" due to start Wednesday and be complete by Nov. 19, the foreign ministry director general, Uri Savir, said. "The redeployment will

begin by setting up a cooperation bureau in the Jenin district to oversee the transition," he said.
"Then there will be a

three-week period when the army will complete its withdrawal and during which civil powers will be handed over on Nov. 5."

During those three weeks Israel will remain responsible for maintaining law and order, and only once the last troops have left will the Palestinian police take charge, Mr. Savir added.

Jenin, in the north of the West Bank, is the first of six Palestinian towns to be evacuated under a timetable agreed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) following the Sept. 28 accord signed in Washington to extend autonomy across the terri-

By the end of December, Tulkarem, Nablus, Kalkiliya, Ramallah and Bethlehem are also due to have been handed over to Palestinian control to allow elections to a self-rule

Special arrangements have been made for the flashpoint town of Hebron where soldiers will remain to protect 400 settlers living among 120,000 Palestinians.

The army and the government were Monday at loggerheads over the cost of the West Bank redeployment which the commander of the region, General Ilan Biran.

estimated would cost a billion dollars, twice the amount allocated in the budget by the

finance ministry. Mr. Savir stressed that "half a dozen terrorists could sabotage the whole process if the Palestinian Authority does not meet the chal-

lenge."
"Terrorism must be confronted firmly from the first day on the West Bank because time is limited," he added, saying it was only in March that the self-rule authority began to "take the necessary measures" to clamp down on opposition to the autonomy accords.

Palestinian police launched a series of sweeps, arresting members of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas and the Islamic Jihad which have carried out the majority of anti-Israeli attacks.

The Jewish state warned the PNA on Sunday that it could reconsider the redeployment timetable if there were any further bloody attacks.

In a symbolic gesture, the Israeli army earlier this month quit four Palestinian villages on the West Bank ending 28 years of occupa-

"If the evacuated towns turn into sanctuaries for terrorists, we will be able to re-examine the timetable for redeployment," said Environment Minister Yossi

Agriculture Minister Yaakjov Tsur warned on Israeli radio: "There could be many obstacles to implementing (the redeployment) according to the timetable. It is very clear that Israel cannot accept terrorism with the

peace process." With the deadline for withdrawal from Jenin fast approaching, Israeli troops arrested six militants from Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the town and surrounding villages on Sunday, sources said.

The withdrawal from all Palestinian towns except

(Continued on page 7)

PLO calls for League mediation with Libya

CAIRO (Agencies) — A Palestine Liberation Orga-nisation (PLO) envoy urged the Arab League Monday to try to stop Libya from expelling more Palestinians.

Mohammad Sobeih, the Palestinian envoy to the Arab League, met Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid and asked him "to immediately intervene" to end the deportations. He called the Palestinians' situation "an urgent humanitarian problem.

Past Arab League attempts to end the expulsions have

About 1,000 refugees are stranded at the desert camp on the Egyptian-Libyan border, where conditions have markedly worsened of recent days, U.N. officials say. Dozens of children are suffering from diarrhoes and clean water is lacking, U.N. officials say cials say.

Also Monday, the Catro office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) sent its second relief shipment of food, water and plastic sheets to the stranded Palestinians. The sheets are used to protect the tents in the rain.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has threatened to expel all 30,000 Palestinians living in Libya in deportations orchestrated to demonstrate his opposition to the

Israel-PLO peace accords.
Dr. Abdul Meguid told journalists he hoped Libya will stop the expulsion campaign "because it has caused numerous problems for our Palestinian brothers," adding that he had "undertaken new urgent contacts in the matThe UNHCR spokesman in Cairo, Panos Mountzis, said Sunday that conditions in the camp were deteriorating, especially for the 256 children there, who have resorted to begging for food from passing cars.
The UNHCR was to take a

large aid shipment to the no-man's land zone later on Monday.

Meanwhile, the 10-day ordeal of more than 600 Palestinians who fled Libya drew to a close Monday as they headed for a new life in Syria but the fate of about 30

others was unresolved. A first group of 270 work-ers and their families wound up their Mediterranean journev at dawn in the Syrian port of Latakia, the Damascus newspaper Al Tishrin re-

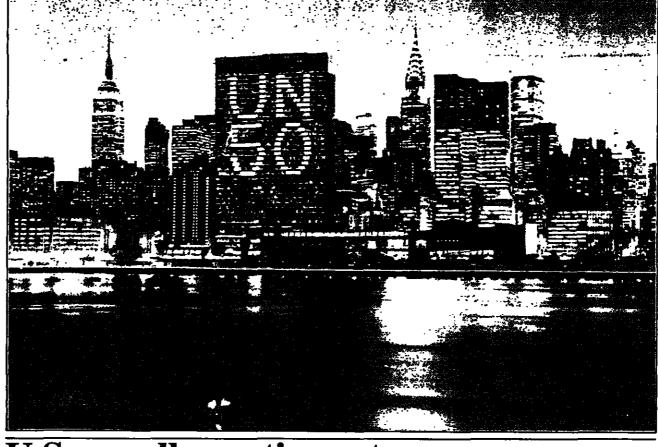
A second vessel, the Syrian military ship Al Assad, left with 350 more Palestinians from the southern Cypriot port of Larnaca the same day en route to Latakia, port officials here said.

Some 43 others, including 24 children, stayed behind on board the Greek-owned car ferry Countess M which along with its 58-strong crew has been the floating home of a total of 660 Palestinians from Libya since Oct. 13.

Captain George Kolidas said 10 Jordanians and an Algerian woman with a Jordanian visa would fly to Amman on Wednesday.

The Palestinian ambassador, Samir Abu Ghazaleh, met for two hours with Capt. Kolidas to discuss the plight of those left behind and was in contact with other Arab

(Continued on page 7)



U.S., smaller nations at cross purposes

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Leaders of nations large and small, amassed in New York on a scale never seen before, are taking the stage one by one on the United Nations' 50th anniversary to call for major change in the way the world body works.

U.S. President Bill Clinton opened the three-day anniversary ceremonies Sunday by calling for cutbacks in the U.N. bureaucracy and for streamlining the organisation to press for human rights and combat international terrorism and drug trafficking. But other leaders said

members must first pay their debts. Members owe the United Nations \$3 billion. The

Deaths in

rises to 8

Saudi blast

DUBAI (Agencies) — An Egyptian man died on Mon-

day of injuries from a bomb

blast in a Saudi mosque dur-

ing Friday prayers, bringing

the death toll to eight, hospit-

Survivors told their horror

as a bomber locked the door

of the packed mosque in the

incident last Friday in which

101 people were injured,

according to accounts in the

One witness said he first

"Then everyone rushed to

heard what appeared to be a

sound similar to that of a

get out of the mosque but found the door was locked...

all were crying and fright-ened," said the witness,

Abdullah Mubarak Al

Omari, according to the

English-language daily Arab

The attack took place in

Quba village in Bisha, a

mountainous tribal region of

Saudi Arabia's remote west-

ern province of Asir. More

than 30 people are still in

Police and civilians sear-

ched the rugged terrain after

the authorities identified the

prime suspect as Abdullah

Ben Mohammad Ben Sa'ad

Al Amri, a Saudi national

also known as Ben Muam-

He is a retired non-

commissioned officer who

served previously in the

Saudi civil defence. Informed

sources said he had two wives

The government, moving

swiftly to quell speculation of

political dissent, said Ben

Muammar had been involved

in a dispute over land with

some people in the mosque.

He faces public beheading

by the sword if found guilty.

Hayat daily newspaper

quoted Hussein Al Zilfah.

governor of Bisha province,

as saying that the man would

(Continued on page 7)

soon be arrested.

The Arabic-language Al

and 13 children.

intensive care units.

al sources said.

Saudi press.

gunshot.

States at \$1.3 billion. More extraordinary than the speeches delivered or the issues raised was the scene itself. It was the largest gathering of world leaders in history — an assemblage as colourful, fractious and diverse as humanity itself.

Before the speeches began Sunday, 190 leaders from nations including the United States and Russia, Iran and Israel, India and Pakistan lined up for a group picture. When the photographer told them to remove their name tags, women in saris and men in African robes searched for a pocket, then all looked up and beamed as a smiley-face

banner unfurled before them. Outside the U.N. complex,

keep away several thousand protesters championing issues ranging from human rights of Pakistan's cultural minorities to the overthrow of Cuban President Fidel Castro.

"What country is it?" asked Joyce Cotten of Baltimore, in town for a sorority convention, as she emerged from her hotel to about 80 protesters chanting slogans in a foreign language (it was Bangladesh).

As it marks 50 years since its formation, the United Na-

tions is grappling with its worst-ever financial crisis. wrung dry by demands for peacekeeping operations in the former Yugoslavia, Somalia, Angola and else-where, and by member

states' failure to pay their British Prime Minister.

John Major demanded reform of the United Nations, calling for some U.N. bodies to be scrapped and warning that failure to act could threaten its future.

In a hard-hitting speech, Mr. Major said the world body was spread too wide and was shot through with waste and duplication. "I want change because I

want the U.N. to succeed. "Inaction is no longer an option. The threat to the future of the U.N. will not come from change. It will come from inertia," he said. Iran, while paying homage

King holds bilateral talks in **New York**

NEW YORK (Petra) -His Majesty King Hussein on Monday conferred at his residence in New York with the president of the Czech Republic, Vaciav Havel, who extended to the King an invitation to visit his country.

The president also voiced his country's appreciation of the King's efforts to achieve comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, stressing that such efforts would benefit all people in the region.

The King also met Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ben Mubarak Al Khalifeh and discussed inter-Arab rela-

The minister voiced appreciation of the King's peace efforts and affirmed that his country will take part in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference later this month.

King Hussein later met Tunisian Foreign Minister Al Habib Ben Yahya, who conveyed to the King an invitation from the Tunisian president to visit his country. He discussed with the King a number of issues of common concern.

The meetings were attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh Ben Al Hussein. Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Oasem and Jordan's Permanent Ambassador to the United Nations Hassan Abu Na'meh.

Regent outlines Jordan's vision and approach to regional development

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The concept of economic development of the Middle East and taking advantage of the business opportunities in the region in an era of peace appears to have become internationally accepted, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Tuesday.

The Crown Prince cited the expected attendance of government leaders and businessmen from 63 countries at next week's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit as one of the strongest signs of this acceptance, adding that Jordan was making sure-footed moves towards realising the

bilateralism and more in terms of regionalism on the way to interacting with the international economic com-Addressing an informal

gathering of foreign media correspondents, the Crown Prince outlined his vision of economic development primarily based on a partnership between the public and private sectors rather than the state taking the initiative as the case had been in the

peacebuilding" and "peace consolidation."

-Canadian Jewish Appeal de-

region for decades.
The MENA conference, he said, is part of the "effort of

Earlier in the day, the Crown Prince met with a

the Jordan-Israel peace treaty for building sustainable peace in the region.

Regent reaffirmed Jordan's principles for building of peace adding that emph-

asis should be laid on the humanitarian aspect of the peace treaty. Stressing the need for the two sides to promote under-standing of each other's posi-

tion in terms of culture, the Regent said "it was vital to bear in mind that a cultural agreement cannot be arrived "I think there is a big deal

of in-house work to be "We have to move from a

legation and said there was a understanding of each other's position and let us work on a lot to be done in the peace era and after the signing of concept of sharing values, he added.

"I am talking about decency, integrity and human values on both sides," he said.

Among the major points that the Crown Prince made at the 75-minute gathering with foreign correspondents attended by Her Royal Highand the Middle East but also as a landmark in bringing about major economic

Croatia talks resume; Bosnia in focus in U.S

SARAJEVO (R) — Moscow and Washington argued over how to enforce a peace accord in Bosnia but talks resumed on Monday over the return of Serb-held territory to Croatia, another key element in a settlement in former Yugoslavia.

In Bosnia, a ceasefire negotiated as a prelude to peace talks at the end of the month was reported to be holding up well.
"It is the 13th day of the

ceasefire and we are pleased to tell you that it holds well," U.N. spokesman Yuri Chizhik told a news briefing. "UNPROFOR (U.N. Protection Force) did not detect any significant military action in the confrontation area."

However, in New York, the United States and Russia were still at odds over the makeup of an international force to police a Bosnia peace. Moscow refused to let its troops serve under NATO and Washington rejected a shared or rotating command.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said talks between presidents

Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton on Monday were unlikely to resolve the differences between Russia and the United

The gap was underlined earlier by Mr. Yeltsin, who told world leaders his troops would serve "only under a strict mandate of the U.N. Security Council."

The complexity of the issue was highlighted on Monday by a report that the Bosnian Serb "parliament" had agreed to accept peace troops on its borders only if they were from Russia "and other friendly countries."

Under a peace deal due to be discussed by the warring parties at the end of the month, Bosnia would be split between separatist Serbs and a Muslim-Croat federation, and a peace force of up to 60,000 would be deployed along the borders.

It was questionable how much weight the Serb parliament decision would carry, since the hardline Bosnian Serb leadership has been effectively sidelined by Serbian President Slobodan

Milosevic taking over the peace negotiations on its be-With the situation quieter

in Bosnia, the spotlight turned to Croatia where talks resumed on the return of Eastern Slavonia, the last area under rebel Serb control. In May and August Croatia

recaptured other territory seized by the Serbs when Zagreb broke from Yugoslavia in 1991. It has threatened to do the same with Eastern Slavonia

Croatian President Franjo Tudiman told a special session of the United Nations to mark its 50th anniversary on Sunday that he hoped such action would not be needed and agreement would be reached on the peaceful reintegration of the territory, which has oil wells and fertile farmland.

"At the same time, we are prepared to take other necessary steps as well, if speedy reintegration of Eastern Slavonia... is not incorporated into the final peace plan for

the region," he warned. There are fears a Croatian

move to retake the region by force could involve Serbia, which borders it, and throw the peace process into tur-

moil.

In Paris, Foreign Minister Herve de Charette dismissed as disinformation a British press report that Belgrade was holding two French flyers shot down over Bosnia in August.

"I know where this comes from, it comes from a source for disinformation but I won't tell you which one," Mr. De Charette told Europe-1

He was commenting on a Sunday Times report quoting Serbian intelligence sources as saying the airmen were believed to be in Belgrade after Mr. Milosevic's security police kidnapped them from a hospital in the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale last week.

The newspaper said the flyers were being held as pawns in a feud between Mr. Milossevic and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and that Mr. Milosevic would "orchestrate their release

ness Princess Sarvath were: - Jordan considers the MENA summit not only as a prestigious event for itself

(Continued on page 7)

2 Home & Middle East News

increases security after Iran diplomat is attacked

BUENOS AIRES (R) -Argentina has stepped up security measures for Iranian diplomats after one of Iran's top envoys was shot and wounded by a motor-cyclist in Buenos Aires. Hassanali Rajabi Yazdi,

33, business attache and the most senior Iranian diplomat in Argentina, was driving with his wife and two young children through the wealthy Belgrang neighbourhood late on Saturday night, when a motorcyclist shot him at point blank range.
"Until we find out what

exactly happened we will enforce strict security around Iranian diplomats, Interior Minister Carlos Corach said on Sunday, describing the attack on the business attache as a "worrying development."
Mr. Yazdi managed to

drive to the nearby Sagrade Familia private hospital after the attack where he underwent an operation. His condition was described as favourable.

Doctors said none of the diplomat's vital organs had been hit during the attack. His wife and two children were unhurt.

"The patient is in a delicate condition but he is progressing in an acceptable way and he is awake and lucid," said Hector Pezzela of the Sagrada Familia hospital.

President Carlos Menem, who is in New York for the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, expressed concern but said nobody should jump to conclusions about the motives for the attack.

'Let's wait for the result of the investigations before we call it a politically motivated attack," the private DYN news agericy quoted him as saying.

Argentina's state Telam news agency quoted the deputy Iranian foreign minister of accusing "zionist elements" for a rule in the attack in a bid to damage. Argentine-Iran ties. Iran's official news agen-

cy, IRNA, said in a report from Madrid that a caller from an unknown "Zionist group" claimed responsibility for shooting Mr. Yazdi in retaliation for the 1994 bombing of a Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires.

After the deadly attack, President Menem said there was proof of Iranian involvement but he then backtracked as little evidence was found to support his allegation.

Israel, the United States and the local Jewish community have said that Iran was behind the bombing. Iran and Argentina have maintained minimal rela-

tions since the July 1994 bombing of the AMIA community centre in Buenos Aires, which killed 86 people.

Juan Jose Qaleano, the judge investigating the AMIA case, said he had proof of Iranian involvement but has not presented sufficient evidence to enable the supreme court to start international legal proceedings.

Argentina | Hamas aims at political party, keeps options open on election

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The lection law yet."

Islamic Resistance MoveOn the reconcil ment (Hamas) has decided to . set up a political party although the radical group is still divided on whether to contest the Palestinian selfrule elections.

"There is a decision to form a party," said Emad Faluji, a prominent Hamas member who publishes its weckly Al Watan.

He said the party would take part in political life and could run in the elections due early next year after the Israeli army pulls out of West Bank towns to extend Palesti-.

But Mr. Faluji believed it was unlikely that Hamas, which rejects the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accords with Israel that launched self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May 1994, would contest the

"If the new parliament is based on the Oslo agreements, we cannot be part of it," he said, referring to the launch of autonomy. "Anyway the elections are too far off and we don't have a clear

On the reconciliation process launched with the Palestinian Authority, Mr. Faluii said Hamas wanted "quick, serious and intense

We must overcome the problems of the past and learn from our Gaza experience to avoid a repetition in the West Bank of mistakes both sides made," he told AFP.

Hamas and another fundamentalist group, the smal-ler Islamic Jihad, have carried out a series of suicide bombings which killed dozens of Israelis, in a bid to

sabotage the peace process.

The attacks blocked rapprochement efforts launched after clashes between Palestinian police and Hamas supporters late September that left 12 people dead and scores injured.

In a revival of reconciliation efforts this month, PLO leader Yasser Arafat freed two Hamas leaders, Ahmad Bahr and Mahmoud Al Zahhar, and agreed to talks with the group in a third country. Cairo has offered to host the

negotiations.

The head of the self-rule itself in public but Mr. Faluji indicated that it had agreed authority also invited Hamas to suspend attacks from withto join in the elections to a in the autonomous areas at least for the duration of the

talks.

A reconciliation team of

Hamas members has

obtained from both the

movement and Mr. Arafat a

pledge to "avoid creating

problems and tension during

the talks, and clearly, we

have respected this request so

"We can't pretend there is

an agreement to freeze milit-

ary operations," Mr. Faluji

"It depends on the talks, it

depends on Israel, whether it will release all Palestinian

prisoners and stop shooting

protesters... there are many

issues. Is Israel ready to pay

the price for Hamas to halt its

Strip and West Bank for

several weeks, up until last

Tuesday, to guard against Hamas and Islamic Jihad

attacks. Islamic Jihad has

said it would boycott the elec-

Israel sealed off the Gaza

far," he said.

operations?"

Palestinian self-rule council planned for January. But Hamas itself appears split on how far to go. Upon his release from jail

on the eve of the spread of self-rule to the West Bank, Sheikh Bahr said, "If the participation of Hamas in the elections is of benefit to the Palestinian people, it will take part.

While Gaza is the movement's strongest base, Hebron in the West Bank is also a Hamas stronghold. The group has won professional and student union elections this year in Ramallah and Nablus, likewise on the West Bank.

"We have a considerable following in the West Bank, not less than in Gaza," Mr. Faluji said.

Any political role for Hamas, however, depends on an agreement with Mr. Arafat who insists that the movement renounce violence against Israel.

Hamas refuses to commit tions and keep up attacks.

militants keep Mubarak at home

Elections,

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Honsi Mubarak has stayed away from the U.N. 50th anniversary celebrations in New York this week because he is busy with plans for forthcoming parliamentary elections, a government official

But some analysts said Mr. Mubarak feared militants bent on overthrowing him would try restage an attack that nearly cost him his life in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa in

Foreign Minister Amr Musa is representing Egypt at the U.N. celebrations. Nabil Osman, head of the state information service, said Mr. Mubarak never intended to join the

too busy at home. Mr. Mubarak has set Nov. 29 as the date for the elections, which take place every five years. All legal opposition parties have announced they will nominate candidates for the 444-seat assembly, unlike the 1990 elections that

U.N. party because he was

Political analyst Hala Mostafa said Mr. Mubarak wanted to be in Cairo in the run-up to the elections because they come at the end of a particularly tense year

they boycotted.

for the government.

Few doubt a victory for Mr. Mubarak's National Democratic Party (NDP), which has won over threequarters of the seats in every poll it has contested, but a government crackdown on the popular but outlawed Muslim Brotherhood group has increased tension.

"These elections are taking place in a year that has been politically charged. There is an atmosphere of confrontation between the authorities and the Muslim Brotherhood which is unprecedented," Mr. Mostafa

Some analysts said more than internal politics persuaded Mr. Mubarak to stay away from celebrations commemorating an organisation of which

Egypt is a keen supporter.
"It's easy to explain why Mubarak didn't go to New York. It's because of this Addis Ababa affair. It has to do with security reasons," Hussein Amin, former Egyptian ambassador to Algeria and a writer on Islamic issues, told Reu-

"It is for his safety. I think Mubarak in future will not be travelling abroad a lot," he added." The militant Al Gamaa

Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group), which launched a campaign to overthrow the government and set up a strict Islamic state, claimed responsibility for the attempt on Mr. Mubarak's life in June and has vowed it would continue to target

The group's spiritual leader, blind cleric Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, was convicted along with nine of his followers in New York last month on charges that included plotting to assassinate Mr. Mubarak during one of his visits to the U.S.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pollard appeals to court to win Israeli citizenship

TEL AVIV (AP) - Convicted spy Jonathan Pollard appealed to the supreme court after the government turned down his request for Israeli citizenship, his lawyer said Monday, Mr. Pollard, arrested in 1985, is serving a life prison term in the United States for spying for Israel, Earlier this year, he applied for Israeli citizenship in hopes that it could improve his chances at a January parole hearing. However, the interior ministry said at the time that Israel does not normally grant citizenship to Jews until that Israel does not normally grant citizenship to Jews until they immigrate. Mr. Pollard's appeal, filed Sunday, is they immigrate and a state of the said on a state of the said of the based on a statute under which Jews are granted citizenship if they have done a service for Israel, regardless of where they live, said his lawyer, Larry Dub. He noted that Israel has granted citizenship to Jews abroad in the past, including Soviet dissidents who were not permitted to leave the Soviet Union in the 1970s and 1980s. Mr. Dub said Israeli legislators have submitted a bill under which Mr. Pollard would be granted citizenship. A first reading was scheduled for next month, the lawyer said.

U.S. forces display firepower in Kuwait

UDAIRI (AFP) — U.S. artillery fired multiple launch rocket system ground-to-ground missiles in Kuwait for the first time since the 1991 Gulf war during exercises in the emirate on Sunday, army officers said. The troop, based at Fort Hood, Texas, were taking part in training exercises at a desert firing range at Udairi, 45 kilometres south of the border with Iraq and were watched by Kuwaiti officers. Two systems, each firing three missiles at a time, were tested by soldiers from a 1,500-strong contingent that arrived in the emirate on Aug. 22 to take part in joint manoeuvres with Kuwaiti forces after rising tension with Iraq. The troops from the First Cavalry Division are due to be replaced in the next few days by soldiers from Fort Carson, Colorado, Captain Austin Johnson told AFP. The U.S. maintains 350 soldiers at Doha camp, north of Kuwait City, under a common defence pact, in addition to the forces brought in for manoeuvres after Washington said it had spotted unusual troops movements in Iraq in July and

Iranian sentenced to death retracts claim

SHARJAH (AFP) - An Iranian sentenced to death for heresy for calling himself a "messenger of God" withdrew his claim and repented before an appeals court on Monday. lawyers said. "I am not a messenger of God. I have no message to give, but I'm a Muslim seeking the strict application of the Koran," Hassan Gholam Hussein Dana was quoted as telling the judges in Sharjah, one of the seven members of the United Arab Emirates. The Iranian had until now insisted that God had asked him to deliver a message to the people on five continents. Mr. Dana, 36, retracted his claim during a closed-door hearing that followed two hours of negotiations involving his courtappointed lawyer and a cleric. The case has been adjourned until Oct. 31.

Israelis have mental problems

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Twenty per cent of Israelis suffer from mental problems but only half of them turn to specialists for help, Health Minister Efraim Sneh said Monday. "Israelis seem to be ashamed of these problems and prefer to see their family doctor, and 85 per cent take tranquillisers like valium without seeing a specialist," he told journalists. "Twenty per cent of Israelis suffer in one way or another from psychological or mental troubles and need attention but only 50 per cent of them go to a psychiatrist or a psychologist," said Dr. Sneh. "The most common symptoms are vague pains, fatigue, insomnia and bad moods, not fear or depression.

French defence minister visits UAE

bilin(

ABU DHABI (AFP) — France's Defence Minister Charles Millon arrived here Monnday for talks with President Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), French embassy officials said. Mr. Millon was to travel later in the day of Qafar, they added. France and the UAE struck a deal in January to allow Abu Dhabi to ask for French military support and share intelligence, while Paris and Doha signed a similar agreement in August 1994. French companies provide 70 per cent of the military equipment for Qatar's armed forces and much of the mateiral for the UAE. In April 1993, the UAE bought 436 LeClerc tanks, built by GIAT Industries, for 20 billion francs (\$3.9 billion). Abu Dhabi received its first shipment in November 1994 and will receive the entire number by 1999. In 1988, France sold 36 Mirage 2000 fighter-bombers to the UAE.

Hizbollah keep out photographers from stronghold

BEIRUT (AFP) - The Iranian-backed Hizbollah are on their guard against photographers and cameramen in the southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital, to the point of beating up Russian tourists. A spokesman for the Russian news agency Novosti said Monday that armed Hizbollah guards attacked a Russian couple last week. Tourists Stanislas Avounin and his wife were briefly hospitalised. They were accompanying a Russian delegation of engineers, businessmen and journalists on a visit to a real-estate company in the Haret Hreik district of the southern suburbs, a Hizboliah stronghold. The couple strayed from the group and began taking photographs near a Hizbollah office when the guards stepped in. Mr. Stanislas was beaten up and his wife who rushed to help was also hit and pushed. Their camera was confiscated for several hours before being returned, only after Hizbollah made sure their office and guards were not photographed, the Russian spokesman said. On Sunday, a French journalist with the European television network TV5 also had his camera confiscated after he filmed around the southern suburbs.

Iraq increases flour, vegetable oil rations

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi government has raised the monthly ration for flour to seven kilogrammes a person from six kilogrammes, gov-ernment newspapers said on Monday.

The vegetable oil ration will also go up, to 750 gramme from 625 grammes, an official statement said. The increase will take effect at the beginning of December.
The government's ration

system has saved millions of poor Iraqis from starvation for the five years since the United Nations imposed trade sanctions in 1990. The rations were cut in

September last year, to six kilogrammes of flour from nine kilogrammes, and since then they have been providing only 34 per cent of their calorie needs.

Iraqis must buy the rest of

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said last to FAO figures.

week that the ration system was preventing famine in Iraq. But the system was unsustainable and the Iraqi government must have access to foreign exchange to buy food for the people, it added.

The official statement did not explain where the extra flour would come from. The cereal crop this year is expected to fall to 2.533 million tonnes, compared to 2.824 million in 1993/4 and 3.451 million in 1989/90, before sanctions.

The statement also announced increases of more than 150 per cent in the prices the state pays farmers for their rice and maize. For the best rice, for example, the price rises to 400,000 dinars (about \$160) a tonne, from 150,000 dinars (\$60).

The increase compensates their food on the open mar- to some extent for inflation, ket, where prices can be which for foodstuffs was on about 14 per cent a month between June 1993 and August 1995, according

Killer of Italian doctor said detained in Somalia

MOGADISHU (Agencies) Militiamen loyal to Somali warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed have captured the gunman who shot and killed an Italian woman doctor and wounded an Italian biologist in the Somali town of Merca, Gen. Aideed's radio station reported Monday.

Graziella Fumagalli died after being hit by at least three bullets in the attack Sunday while Christoforo Andreoli received serious facial injuries when four gunmen stormed the hospital, 100 kilometres south of Mogadishu, posing as pa-tients and opened fire.

Both Italians were working for the humanitarian organisation Caritas-Italia. The radio said Abdi

Abdullahi Mire admitted killing Fumagalli when the Aideed's militiamen arrested him 17 kilometres south of Merca. The motive for the attack

has not been established, the radio added. It gave the names of the

three other gunmen still at large as Mohammad Sharif, Said Ibrahim and Yousef Dhere.

Caritas-Italia also runs four schools with 2,500 pupils in Merca, which is under Gen. Aideed's control. The radio said Gen.

Aideed's self-styled "government," formed in June, had sent its "interior minister" to Merca for further investigations in to the attack. Fumagalii's remains, Andreoli and four other

Caritas-Italia workers were airlifted to the Kenyan capital Nairobi on Sunday. The motive for the attack by was not immediately clear. but the widespread lawless-

ness born out of Somali's clan warfare has made Somalia risky for outsiders. An Italian Foreign ministry official, Vincenzo Pedrone, said the clinic was in a parti-

culary dangerous area. Merca is a hotbed of Muslim fundamentalism, but it was impossible to immediately say if religion had anything

to do with the shooting.

U.S television preaches gospel in S. Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (AFP) — Nestled between the Israeli army headquarters and their proxy militia in occupied southern Lebanon, a television station run by U.S. evangelist magnate Pat Robertson is preaching the

Twelve years ago Middle East Television (METV) de-cided to carry its evangelist mission to the region and chose to set up house in Lebanon. "For Christians like Pat

Robertson, the Middle East in general and Lebanon is sacred Biblical group. So it was important and logical to be here," said Jo. Ayad, METV's news editor in

"Our first goal is to preach the gospel," he said. In addition to a daily onehour religious programme, including Mr. Robertson's own "The 700 Club," METV offers a variety of U.S. sitcoms, tele-shopping and a 30-minute news bulletin each

METV belongs to Mr. Robertson's \$140-million television empire which in-clude the U.S.-based Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) and Family Channel, the 10th biggest cabled station in the United States.

Most of its 35 employees here are Lebanese and "pre-ferably Christians," said Mr. Ayad, and the station operates on a \$1 million annual budget 17 hours a day.

Two 20-kilowatt relay stations enable audiences in parts of Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Syria to

Many of those who tune in have alternately accused METV of broadcasting Israeli propaganda or of backing the Israeli-trained and financed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia. "We are not doing any

propaganda for anyone. We're an American com-

pany, our budget is 100 per cent American. We don't get a penny from Israel," said But the station's physical

appearance and its operating methods fail to persuade many that it is as independent and unbiased as it says it is. METV is located in a Lebanese-government-

owned building which housed a French officers club during the French mandate on Lebanon and is stuck between SLA and Israeli army headquarters in Marjayoun. "The building was the only one available when we came

here. Everything else we devastated by the war. Our presence in this building does not reflect our political line. We put a lot of money into restoring it," Mr. Ayad said. METV imports its video

equipment directly from the United States using express mail and an Israeli mailing address, said one of seven employees in charge of Arabic subtitles for the American programmes.
"People cannot seem to understand that we are Lebanese citizens working in the 'security zone' and that we are not pro-Israelis," said Mr. Ayad.

"Israel cannot censor us because we are Lebanese in Lebanon. We are not in Israel here," he said in reference to the 850-squarekilometre buffer zone which Israel has occupied since And yet METV reporters

cannot conduct interviews north of the zone "because people on the other side do not trust us and accuse us of being pro-Israeli," said Mr. Ayad "I tried on a few occasions to contact Lebanese leaders like (Parliament Speaker

Nabih) Berri for interviews but I was systematically turned down," he added. "But if something happens across the border in Israel all we need to do is get in the car and cross the border," he

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min/Max. temp.

NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY**

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Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate . 630341 Civil Defence Emergency cuc Police 192, 621111, 637777 Fire Brigade Blood Bank Highway Police Traffic Police 896390 ... 630321 Public Scennity Department Hotel Complaints 605800 Water and Sewerage 787111 773111 Water Authority Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

RJ Flight Information 08-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200 HOSPITALS AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6 Akilch Maternity, J., Amn. 647441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 636140 Shmeisani Hospital University Hospital Al-Muasher Hospital 669131 . 667227/9 The Islamic, Abdali Oueen Alia Hospital 686100 Special Surgery 865199

(09)900560 (09)986732 (09)990990 (02)275555

AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL **AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ)

(Terminal 1) 03:10 Jakarra, Kusla Lumpur (RJ) 97:00 Damascus (RJ) 96:55 Abu Dhabi (RJ) Aqaba (RJ) Muscat, Dubai (RJ) Doha, Bahrain (RJ) Frankfurt (RJ) 17:25 ... Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

.... Munich (YP Rome (AZ) .. Aden (DY) Beirut (ME) Bucharest (RO) DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ)

..... Beirut (R.I) Aqaba, Vicana, Frankfurt (RJ)

11:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)

11:45 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)

12:20 Brussels, London (RJ) Larnaca (RJ)
Jeddah (RJ) 20:05

Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ) 3:06Jeddah (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2) Damascus, Puris (AF)
Cairo (MS)
Khartoum (SD)

Sharm Al Sheikh, Munich (YP) (5:29 Damascus (AZ)

13:55

21:29 Abu Dhabi. Dubai (RI)

5:00 p.m. every Monday 7:30 a.m. every Sunday 5:00 p.m. every Sunday MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg. Banana (Mukammar) 220 / 150 Carrot Cauliflower 280/180 Cucumbers (large) Cucumbers (small) 340 / 260 250/150 240/180 Marrow (large) ... Marrow (small) . 15UV 100 Olives (green) Onion (dry) 400A300 250/ 150 500/400 Pepper (hot) 200 / 150 . 220/150

Amsterdum (KL)

that 8:00 every Monday

HIJAZ RAILWAY

TRAIN

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

..... To Run The Gauntlet I Love Lucy
...... Tarazan Children's Programme — Cocotte 17:39 Seric — Fruits Et Legumes

..... News in French 19:35 The Secrets of Treasure Island The Bold and the Beautiful Drama — True Blue 22:25 ... Doc. - No Place To Hide Film: "Molly and Gina" Grace Under Fire

PRAYER TIMES

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Sweifieh, Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440. De la Salle Church Tcl. 661757 Terrasaucta Church Tcl: 622366 Church of the Amunciation Tel. 623541 Anglican Church Tel. 652826. Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

771331.

Armenia 775261. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Ammin International Church Tel. Evengelical Lutheran Church Tel: 8243.28. 324.23.
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 345457
The Church of Jesus Carist of
Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.
The Evangelical Local Church In
Amman

lan Orthodox Church Tel.

America Tcl. 811295. WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-ment of Meteorology.

Unstable weather conditions will prevail with clouds appearing at different altitudes. Scattered showers are expected in different parts of the Kingdom and winds becom-ing easterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate

...... 16/ 30 09/27 Amman 23. Aqaba 30. Humidity readings: Amman 47 per cent. Aqaba 30 per cent.

TELEPHONE

AMMAN:

Electric Power

ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital Ibn Sina Hospital ... RMD: Princess Basma Hospital Greek Catholic Hospital Ibn Al Nafees Hospital ...

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Other Flights (Terminal 2) Vienna (OS) DAY, OCTOBER 24, by

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A DAY TO REMEMBER: Proud parents, Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath, pose with their daughter, HRH Princess Badiya, after her graduation ceremony at Christ Church Oxford University where she received her bachelor of history degree with honours on Saturday

Japan, Italy and Qatar say their governments are sending large delegations to MENA

(Petra)—The Japanese government is encouraging the largest possible number of the country's businesses to invest in Jordan and to increase their imports from the Kingdom to help strengthen the Jordanian economy, according to Ambasador Japanese

Takayuki Kimura Monday. Mr. Kimura said Japan will support the establishment of a Middle East Development Bank which can offer credit to finance regional projects in the

peace era, The ambassador said his country was sending a 65member delegation made up of 15 government representatives and the rest, private sector representatives, jects such as the proposal to to the Middle East and lay a gas pipeline from

North Africa (MENA) economic summit due to start here on Sunday.

After the summit, Mr. Kimura said, Tokyo is expected to provide financial assistance to Jordan to help it carry out projects earlier discussed between the two countries.

Also Monday Italian Ambassador to Jordan Romualdo Bettini said his country will do whatever it can to help the MENA conference achieve success. Dr. Bettini said Italy will

despatch a large delegation from the private and public sectors led by the Italian foreign minister and a large, group of journalists. He also said Italy was interested in regional pro-

Egypt to Gaza. Dr. Bettini added that Italy was currently conducting studies on projects to be carried out in the Jordan Rift Valley His country is also inter-

ested in major infrastructure projects, some of which are already being implemented such as the Aqaba Thermal Power Plant, the highway connecting Ras Naqab with Aqaba and the Karameh and the Kafrein dams in the Jordan Valley region.
Also Monday, Qatari

ambassador to Jordan Nasser Ben Abdul Aziz said his country will send a large delegation to the MENA conference, led by Foreign?
Minister ... Hainad Ben Jassem and including government and private sector

PSD announces temporary road closure in West Amman

JUBEIHA DISTRICT

University of Jordan Road Sport

SHADED AREA CLOSED TO TRAFFIC

Wash Tell Street (GARDENS STREET)

Public Security Depart-Monday ment(PSD) announced that the stretch of the University Road heading west between the Ministry of Interior Circle and the Al Hussein Sports City will be closed to traffic from Friday Oct.27 until

The construction of an overpass at the Ministry of Interior Circle is not expected to be completed soon, and therefore to avoid congestion at this usually busy interchange, particularly during the days of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit (scheduled from Oct. 29-31) which will be convened at several venues along that road, the authorities have taken the measure of closing the area to traffic. Alternate routes are:

Heading south from Salt and Jerash, motorists are advised to take the route: a) from Sweileh Bridge towards the King Hussein Medical Centre to the

Eighth Circle, or b) from the University of Jordan to the turn-off before the University Bridge heading towards the Jubilee intersection, or

c)from the University of Jordan to Al Hussein Sports City Circle, right at the circle towards the Wasfi Tal Street (Gardens Street) intersection (in front of Safeway Stores.

From Zarqa to Amman: a) The Zarqa-Amman Highway to the intersection at the Public Security Department Workshops, left at the intersection, passing the Public Transport
Corporation, right at the
intersection towards Independence Road until the traffic lights before the Ministry of Interior Circle, and left at the intersection towards Jabal Hussein.

Bridge Interchangs

Jubilee traffic ligh

b)The Zarqa-Amman Highway through the tunnel at Al Hussein Sports City Circle circle.

c) Raghadan towards the town centre, then Al Hashemi Street, to Faisal Street and then to Abdali. d) Raghadan Bridge, then

left towards the town centre and then right towards Independence Street.
h) Uphill Wadi Haddadeh towards Jabał Hussein: From Amman to Salt and other parts northwards

Abdali bus terminal Suleiman Nabulsi Road and the Intelligence Department traffic lights, to Shmeisani and Wadi Saqra, or from Abdali to Jabal Luweibdeh until the traffic lights at the entertainment park and then to Shmeisani and Wadi Sagra districts.

motorists should drive from

Drivers heading from Shmeisani towards Jabal Hussein and Abdali nurn left at the intelligence Department through Queen Noor Street until the Ministry of Industry and Trade traffic lights, then

right towards Jabal Hussein and right to Abdali. Drivers heading from

Independence Street

ZAHRAN DISTRICT

Jabal Hussein towards the Hussein Sports City and the University of Jordan have the following options:

a) From Khaled Ibn Al Walid Street go right towards Nablus Street towards the Independence Road, the Sports Faculty and the Martyr's Monu-

ment b) From Firas Circle towards, Jalil Street, then Ludd Society Street and Independence Street. Drivers heading from Shmeisani towards the University of Jordan, follow the Abdul Hamid Sharaf road to the Safeway traffic lights and then left towards Wasfi Tal Street,

Drivers heading from Abdali towards Shmeisani can take King Hussein Street towards the Ministry of Industry and Trade traffic lights and then left towards Shmeisani.

For further information paisvelephone: 196 (PSD), 1904 (ACC) Traffic Department 662l67 (PSD public rela-

professional women seek to establish regional committee Blind

By Lola Keilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Blind women participating in a workhoop which over five days will discuss their problems, including community integration, rehabilitation, and family acceptance, immediate demanded action from government non-governmental

organisations to help in addressing these problems. In the workshop, entitled, "Blind Women on the Move," and which started Monday, 35 blind Arab women hope to establish a committee that will address the "idiosyncrasy" of Arab society, in order to open the door so that the blind can fully participate and con-

on an equal basis with their aghted counterparts. Our region has its own characteristics, and other countries' models do not necessarily apply here nor are they easily accepted," said Sae'eda Husni, a par-

tribute to their communities

the western countries'

more liberal where the rights of the handicapped

Therefore blind Arab women need to address their own problems and solve them according to the society, said Dr. Husni, who holds a Ph.D. in histo-

In Lebanon, said Nada Kazaz, the families of blind women refuse to send them outside the villages for vocational training. So, Ms. Kazaz said, "We started going to their homes and training them on income generating projects that can

Ra'd Ben Zeid.

discriminated against. emphasised.

A mother of a four- yearold blind girl, Kauthar Abdul Majeed, said that blind children face various whose societal norms are problems in Jordan espe-

are concerned.

apply to their community."

Family and traditions stand in the way of educating blind women, said Chief Chamberlain Prince Prince Ra'd added that

blind women are indeed

"They have difficulties in finding jobs, getting married and becoming part of the society," Prince Ra'd

ticipant from Egypt. Ms. Husni referring to cially in terms of education. "How can you convince a father from Agaba or Irbid

to send his daughter to a boarding school outside his district, said Ms. Abdul Majeed, head of the parents committee at the Noor Institute for the Blind., Education is compulsory,

until the 10th grade in Jordan, but their is no authority which will enforce the law by forcing the family of a blind child to put him/her in school. Jordan currently has only

three schools for the blind. all of which are based in Amman. "We suggested to the Ministry of Education that

it provide one Braille teacher for every major school outside Amman, but so far nothing has happened," Ms. Abdul Majeed Although the Constitution

guarantees all citizens equal rights under the law. equal opportunities are not available in Jordan, said Salwa Damen-Masri, Minister for Social Development

practical programmes for training the blind. Two blind women at the opening session told the

situation there should be

Jordan Times that they both have university degrees and work experience, but cannot find jobs in the King-They said they gained their work experience in the Gulf states.

Zahra Askar, who used to be the head of the English department in a school in Riyadh, said that working in Jordan has nothing to do with experience or train-

I have been unemployed ever since I came to Jordan, four years ago," Ms. Askar said adding that she had sent applications "everywhere" and received no responses, not even a letter of acknowledgment of

receipt of her application. Although the law states that two per cent of the jobs at private companies should be held by handicapped individuals, the reality is different.

Suad Khalil, a teacher at a Ministry of Education school, said every year the school threatens to dismiss

her because she does not use the blackboard.

"But each year the students support me, particularly because I spell every word to them verbally," she

She also complained of the discriminating regulations of the Ministry of Health and the lack of interest in blind students on part of the Ministry of Edu-

cation. "My appointment at the Ministry of Education was delayed seven months because the health report said I was unfit to work," she said.

The initiative for establishing a Middle Eastern committee for blind women was taken by Ms. Kiki Norstrom, president of the Women's committee at the International Union for Blind Women, who chose Amman as the base for the newly established commit-

"We are accused of speaking quietly and softly, it is time to speak up. So watch out, blind women are on the move."



Speakers from right to left at the "Blind Women on the Move" workshop are: HRH Princess Majda Ra'd, Kikki Norstrom, president of the Women's Committee at the International Union for Blind Women, Minister of Social Development Salwa Damen-Masri, HRH Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, Sheikh Abdullah Ghanem, president of the regional office for the Committee of the Blind, and David Blithe, president of the World Blind Union (Petra photo)



The world of the 'single dimension' as painted by Shaker Hassan Al Said

Ms. Damen-Masri added

that in order to improve this

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

MARKET PRICES AMMAN — The exhibition of the works of Iraqi painter Shaker Hassan Al Said, which opened at the French Cultural Centre Wednesday, takes the visitor into a different world the world of the "single dimension", which the artist himself describes as the pictoral representation a dimension which can effectively not be shown in

a picture: Through his paintings, Mr. Al Said forces us to disengage from our everyday perception of the world, to take a step back while being taken on a journey to the far end of our galaxy," writes Marie Martinez in the brochure accompanying the

exhibition. "With the 'single dimension'. I want to arrive at the origin of matter before the appearance of the external surface, " says the artist. "The 'single dimension' is equal to a space or a line

which cannot be drawn." In his paintings, the 'single dimension' is represented by the merger of paired concepts, such as the seen and the unseen, matter and void, place and time and

mind and sensation. The artist explains that a painting showing an isolat-

ed word in an ocean of blue-brown colours stands for the merger of mind and sensation: the senses take in and respond to the colours of the painting, while the

mind reads the word. The meeting of two paired concepts is not always smooth - Mr. Al Said's paintings abound with cracks and white, burnt-out holes which break up the harmony of the calm shades of blue, brown

and beige of his work. Mr. Al Said's paintings are filled with mathematical symbols and magic charts.

"Fascinated by the cosmos, his research has focused for many years on what for him is the original expression of our understanding of the world: Sumerien symbols, numbers and their meanings. For him, everything has a mathematical origin and takes man back to his matrix — the universe,"

according to Mrs. Martinez In his work, Mr. Al Said not only merges concepts he also bridges countries and cultures.

After graduating from the Institute of Fine Arts in Baghdad in 1954, the artist went to Paris in 1955 to continue his studies.

His work reflects the influence of modern West-

ern schools of painting, but he declares himself equally inspired by the ancient Islamic and non-Islamic civilisations of the East, among them the Sumeriens of Iraq and the Pharaonic dynasties of Egypt.

The well-known artist, who is considered one of the pioneers in modern Iraqi art, has visited Jordan regularly since the early '90s, to paint, to exhibit his works and to give lectures.

The current exhibition, running until Nov. 4, is the third showing of his work in Amman.

German SPD crisis deepens after Berlin election disaster

BONN (R) — Germany's and opposition Social Schro opposition (SPD) met Democrats Monday to draw conclusions from an election beating in their one-time stronghold of Berlin, the result of months of wrangling and failure to shape new poli-

The SPD crashed to just 23.6 per cent in Sunday's state election in the city where former Chancellor Willy Brandt used to score more than 60 per cent as mayor in the 1960s.

It was the centre-left party's fifth worst showing in 174 state and national elections since 1945. Commentators and party officials left no doubt where they thought the blame lay.

Big mistakes were made here in Bonn over the summer," new party manager Franz Muentefering told west German radio as the party executive, including

cies) — Burma's military

government has ruled that

pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's reappoint-

ment to a leadership role in

her political party is illegal,

a government official said

The ruling by the Election

Commission, which regu-

lates all political parties.

cited a 1991 rule banning

further changes in party

leadership, a commission

member who demanded

Suu Kyi, who was freed

from six years of house

arrest in July, was reinstated

on Oct. 9 as general secre-

tary of the National League

for Democracy, which she

The Election Commission

ruling also prevents Tin Oo

and Kyi Maung, former

political prisoners released

in March, from assuming

their new posts as vice

The National League for

Democracy was forced to

expel Ms. Suu Kyi, Tin Oo

and Kyi Maung in 1991 to

retain its status as a legal

party. A government regula-

tion proscribed parties from

having members who were

charged with offenses by

Ms. Suu kyi was detained.

but never tried, on charges

of endangering national

anonymity said.

helped found.

chairmen.

the state.

Schroeder and Oskar Lafontaine, met in Bonn. "We must make it clear that the personal wrangling in Bonn has to stop. I hope

everyone has now under-

stood where it leads." Commentators damning of the once-mighty party which has seen its nationwide ratings slide to post-war lows.

They wondered how much longer the lacklustre Scharping, already the subject of countless party coup rumours after a summer of fighting off Mr. Schroeder, could hang on.

Exit surveys taken in Berlin showed his personal rating had plunged to unprecedented depths for any party leader.

"The air for Scharping bas got so thin, not only in Berlin, that it's hardly enough to breathe. And Schroeder, Lafontaine and co, are certainly not rushing

Party leadership role for Suu Kyi

ruled illegal by Burmese government

writing to the Election

Commission. The commis-

sion informed the National

League for Democracy of

The commission member

said the party can still func-

tion legally with its old

leadership lineup. The party's chairman is Aung

Shwe, a former military

The National League for

Democracy won a landslide

victory in 1990 elections.

but the military government

refused to hand over power.

elections were to set up a

national convention to draw

up guidelines for a new con-

stitution. The ongoing con-

vention has been labeled a

sham by human rights

organisations because oppo-

been allowed to participate.

nents are still in prison or

power in 1988 after slaugh-

tering thousands of pro-

democracy demonstrators

on the streets of Rangoon

and other major Burmese

cities. It has set no date for a

Meanwhile fuelled by

age-old nationalism and the

spoils of the opium trade,

fighting is intensifying in

Burma's remote Golden

Triangle between the coun-

return to civilian rule.

Many government oppo-

The government assumed

Instead, it said that the

its ruling last week.

leader.

exile.

RANGOON, Burma (Agen- ship must be submitted in

to resuscitate him," said the daily Saarbruecker Zeitung. But the air is also getting

thin for the whole party. which like other European sister movements is desperately seeking a new message as its traditional working-class base disappears. It has cast envious glances at the revamp which Tony Blair has given Britain's Labour Party.

German voters seem less and less sure what the SPD

In Berlin the big gains went to parties with sharp profiles — the east german reform communist Party of Socialism Democratic (PDS), which took 14.6 per cent, and the leftist-ecologist Greens, with 13.2 per

"The problem of the SPD is that it is stuck in the middle and is in danger of being ground away -- in the west between the Christian Democrats (CDU) and the

Commanders of the ethnic

minority Wa army, allied

with Burma's military gov-

emment since a 1989 cease-

fire, vowed Monday to push

guerrillas loyal to the Shan

opium warlord Khun Sa out

of the hills in this region of

and defeat him or else he

will completely swallow the Wa people like he has done

to so many other groups."

said Lin Wen, a senior

United Wa State army com-

Several thousand Wa rein-

forcements have been

brought down from their

headquarters area in north-

ern Shan state on the border

with China to this region in

the south of the state, near

the Thai frontier to battle

cattent tound of tightnig

Another 2,000 reinforce-

ments are on their way and

more will be brought in

until Khun Sa's fighters are

driven out of the area, Lin

The Burmese government

has given permission for

Wa troops to move from the

north through government

territory and mule caravans

are travelling with them

from the government town

of Mong Hsat, loaded with

mortar bombs, rocket

grenades and other ammu-

began in June.

Wen said.

"We must fight Khun Sa

northeastern Burma.

mander.

nents of the regime have not Khnn Sa's army since the

Greens, and in the east between the CDU and the PDS," SPD Member of Parliament Thomas Krueger

The SPD was unable to maintain any profile in Berlin as the junior partner in a coalition with Chancellor Helmut Kohl's CDU, which slipped three points to 37.4 per cent in the poll. But the SPD has also been unable to grab attention in opposition in Bonn.

"People don't think the SPD has economic compe-tence any more," ZDF national television commented. "In Berlin, people don't even think it would do a better job at fighting unemployment than the

That's an alarm signal for all Social Democrats. It shows the causes of the defeat go deep and that questions of personalities alone are not nearly enough to explain the debacle."

Trial of Japan cult guru may

be delayed

TOKYO (R) — The murder trial of the leader of Japan's Aum doomsday cult may be delayed beyond its scheduled Thursday opening because his only lawyer was taken to hospital after a car accident, news reports said Monday.

Lawyer Shoji Yokoyama, 67, was involved in a minor accident in Tokyo Sunday, Initially Mr. Yokoyama said he was not hurt but after examination Monday he was asked to stay in hospital for treatment for whiplash, the

Kyodo News Agency said. Aum Shinri Kyo (Supreme Truth) sect, is accused of masterminding the Tokyo subway attack. Eleven people died and 5,500 passengers were taken ill in the

nal cases in Japan cannot be held without the presence of at least one lawyer. It was not clear if Mr. Yokoyama could make it to the opening session.

When the accident occurred, Mr. Yokoyama was heading for police headquarters to see Mr. Asahara. Mr. Yokoyama was in a car driven by an Aum follower which was hit by two other cars when the driver tried to make an illegal U-turn. No one else

was hurt. Local newspapers said 8,000 police would be mobilised for security duty if the trial goes ahead

Thursday. The Mainichi Shimbun said hundreds of riot police will be on duty at the Tokyo District Court, scene of the trial, and the police headquarters where Mr.

major subway and railway terminals, underground malls, buildings bousing the Justice Ministry, the Education Ministry and the Tokyo metropolitan govemment, as well as homes and officers of judges and

Their main aim would be to thwart any attempted attacks by Aum cultists to either disrupt the trial or said. An attack by ultraright activists was another

An spokesman for the Police Department (MPD) said he could not confirm the Mainichi report.

the summit of the group of seven industrialised states, involved in a specific secu-



File photo of former South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo (Left), at the centre of a \$500 million slush fund scandal, with his security chief Lee Hyong-Woo in the presidential Blue House in February 1988 (AFP photo)

S. Korea's Roh faces slush fund probe

SEOUL (R) - Former Roh apologise for the scan-South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo Monday faced mounting calls to explain a 48.5 billion won (S63 million) political slush fund managed by his onetime top security aide.

The stock market slipped in a fit of anxiety over the allegations by the aide, with banking shares particularly hurt by worries that an investigation of the scandal might extend to all banks.

Opposition parties demanded Mr. Roh's arrest. while the ruling Democratic Liberal Party said the former military-backed president must be held to

"Senior members of our party have agreed that ex-President Roh can't avoid investigation as his former security chief said he received the money directly from him," a ruling party spokesman told reporters.
Finance and Economy Minister Hong Jae-Hyong told reporters tax authorities

will probe corporations or individuals to find out if they evaded taxes in connection with the scandal. Aπ

opposition Democratic spokesman demanded Mr.

dal that threatens to lift the lid on decades of political corruption. "Former President Rob

should be arrested immediately and investigated," the spokesman said. The former security aide.

Lee Hyun-Woo, stepped forward Sunday to declare he personally managed what he described as a 48.5 billion won (\$64 million) slush fund used by Mr. Roh. On Sunday state media

reported Mr. Lee as telling prosecutors the size of the slush fund was 30 billion won (\$39 million).

But on Monday he said Mr. Roh withdrew 12.1 billion won (\$16 million) at the end of his five-year term in 1993 and the balance of 36.4 billion won (\$47 million) from the fund was now kept in the Shinhan Bank.

Mr. Roh has made no public comment since the scandal broke Thursday last week when an opposition lawmaker accused him of controlling 400 billion won (\$522 million) of slush money.

He has declined all comment since Mr. Lee's statement. Earlier, his office quoted him as denying any Yonhap News Agency Monday quoted Mr. Roh's personal secretary Park Young-Hoon as saying: 'We don't have any plan to announce our position in connection with this case today".

Mr. Park was quoted as saying Mr. Roh ordered Mr. Lee to open the Shinhan accounts but did not know details about how they were operated and was "surprised to hear the accounts held part of the slush funds".

Mr. Lee, once Mr. Roh's top bodyguard and later director of the Agency for National Security Planning. Seoul's equivalent of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, said the money was used to cover a shortfall in the president's office budget.

He told reporters Monday he deposited and withdrew money from the accounts on Mr. Roh's instructions.

Asked by a reporter whether Mr. Roh knew that tens of billions of won was left over from a political fund, Mr. Lee said: "He roughly knew although he did not know the exact

copies well-known murders. Hunter plays a homicide detective trying to get a forensic psychologist (played by Sigourney Weaver) to save the day. Hunter is also starring in

Tiny Matisse watercolour to

PARIS (R) — A watercolour by Henri Matisse which hung above a bedroom door in a quiet Paris flat for 80 years goes briefly on public display next month before being sold at auction. Just 31 cm high and framed in crusty gold cardboard, the portrayal of five nudes dancing hand-in-hand in a circle is the last of the celebrated "La Danse" paintings still in private hands. It will be shown for three days at the Drouot Auction House before being auctioned on Nov: 30. Art expert Jean-Marcel Camard believes it will fetch more than six million francs (\$1.2 mil-

Gamblers swarm to Greece's new casinos

LOUTRAKI, Greece (R)

 Las Vegas-style gambling has come to this Greek seaside resort and the punters are flocking in for the chance to win, or lose, a fortune. "This is a slow day." said casino general manager Tony Saracine, "We have an average of about 1,800 clients daily and 3,000 on Saturdays. Greece is very good business as Greeks are fanatical gamblers," With 20 slot machines and + 40 tables for roulette. blackjack, dice and poker, the Loutraki Casino is among the biggest in Europe. It grossed more than \$3 million in the first two weeks after it opened

try's two most powerful Changes in party leader-Social Democrats make biggest gains in Swiss parliamentary polls

BERN, Switzerland (AP) - In a sign of future struggles over European Union membership, Switzerland's main pro-and anti-European parties have emerged the biggest winners in national parliamentary elections.

Both sides immediately claimed victory, setting the scene for wrangling on whether the Alpine nation should throw its weight behind continental integration or continue in splendid isolation.

The European issue was the top theme in an election campaign which also included "high" unemployment of 4 per cent, the sluggish economy, drug problems and the environment.

Final results were expected Monday. The outcome will not prompt any change in government in one of the world's most politically stable countries. The fourparty coalition which has ruled since 1959 will continue to hold office under what the Swiss call their "magic formula" consen-

Returns from the majority of cantons (states) and television projections showed the left-of-centre Social Democrats made unexpectedly high gains to become the biggest faction in the four-party coalition govern-

`_-_. .__. ___

They were set to gain about 12 seats to boost their share in the 200-seat National Council, or lower house, to 53 seats. Most of the gains were in urban areas and many were at the expense of the Greens.

What's important in the next four years is that we at some stage finally make the opening toward Europe," said Social Democrat Chairman Peter Bodenmann.

Backed by young supporters, the Socialists argued that Switzerland cannot continue to be an island of old-fashioned neutrality in a rapidly changing Europe.

Even with the Socialist gains, the government is unlikely to force through a decision on Europe. It is still stinging from a 1992 referendum in which a slim majority voted against a lucrative European free trade area.

Christoph Blocher, a millionaire industrialist who leads the anti-European drive, maintained that a decision to apply for European Union membership would be delayed until the next century because of his campaign.

"I'm more than happy with the outcome," declared Mr. Blocher. His Swiss ment for the first time in 20 People's Party gained its

best result in more than 60 years thanks to its newlystrident message that Swiss independence reigns supreme. The party was set to gain 30 seats.

Of the remaining, centrist coalition parties, the Christian Democrats lost some ground, while the Radical Democrats did better than expected. Together they were expected to hold about 80 seats.

The parties outside the governing coalition fared the worst. The Greens suffered the biggest losses, while extreme right-wing parties which had advanced at the 1991 elections were stopped.

Turnout appeared to be low. Only 46 per cent of the 4.5 million electorate had voted in 1991. The lack of interest can be

explained by a "democratic overdose." with just 100,000 signatures enough to force a national referendum, the Swiss vote on everything from gasoline price hikes to anti-vivisection laws.

Since the last parliamentary elections in 1991, voters have tramped to the polls about 14 times to give their view on dozens of nationwide issues and hundreds of local ones.

Trials for serious crimi-

Asabara is in custody.

Police will also patrol prosecutors.

free Asahara, Mainichi possibility.

Metropolitan Except for events such as

the mpd does not reveal the number of officers rity operation, he said.

N. Korea says infiltration faked, slams U.S.-S. Korean exercise to try to take the matter war games in deference to

SEOUL (AFP) - North Korea Monday reaffirmed accusations that U.S. and South Korean troops had staged last week's spying incident on the demilitarized zone, monitors said.

"The 'incident' is really a clumsy drama ... a co-production directed by a poor scenario," the North's mouthpiece Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said of an infiltrator shot dead by South Korean troops last Tuesday.

One spy, said by the South to come from North Korea, was shot dead in the demilitarized zone. A second managed to escape back to the

Commenting on a United Nations Command protest, which North Korean army officers refused to accept, KCNA, monitored in Tokyo, said it was "foolish" through the Armistice Commission which "has been destroyed so seriously ... it cannot be revived." North Korea contends the

armistice is out of date, and is urging the United States to make a bilateral peace treaty, excluding South Korea, a position rejected by Seoul and Washington. KCNA also slammed an

ongoing joint training exercise in the South, charging that it was an "undisguised" violation of its nuclear accord with Washington. A note accompanying the October 1994 agreement

struck in Geneva that resulted in North Korea halting its suspect nuclear programme was not made public, but for the past two years South Korean and U.S. troops have cancelled their annual Team Spirit the accord. .KCNA. quoting

spokesman for Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, called the current Foal Eagle 95 exercise a "replica of the Team Spirit nuclear war exerxcise," and demanded it be halted.

"If the United States and the South Korean puppets continue to aggravate the situation on the Korean peninsula ... they will be wholly responsible for the consequences," the spokesman warned. The U.S.-South Korean Command has said Foal Eagle involves rear-area preparedness exercises, command and control response, amphibious landings and anti-air and ground

Mexico rebels, government reach accord on Indian rights

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (R) — Zapatista rebels and government envoys finished the latest round of peace talks in the southern state of Chiapas Sunday with agreements both sides hope will grant greater rights for Mexican Indians and open the door to peace.

After five days of meetings in this colonial highlands city, both sides agreed that Mexico's indigenous people need greater autonomy and political power as part of any overall peace settlement, officials said.

At the end of talks late Sunday, officials presented several thick documents outlining basic principles of indigenous rights and political reforms, although many of the details will have to be worked out in later rounds

of talks.

Among other things, the documents outline the creation of autonomous indige-

nous communities with legal powers and contemplate expanding Mexico's local legislative bodies to allow greater Indian representation.

"It is important to modify the prevailing laws to permit indigenous people to organise themselves," one of the documents said. The mood at the talks was

noticeably more friendly than during previous rounds of negotiations, during which each side accused the other of an unwillingess to negotiate. This time around, both sides praised the other.

The (Zapatista) delegation was disposed to dialogue," the government said in an unusual statement following the talks. The balance of what we

have acheived so far shows that the problems (of the Indians) are being looked at in depth and that there are serious efforts to find solutions," the Zapatista rebels Sunday and dated Oct. 21, before the conclusion of the During the talks, both

sides were joined by dozens of independent specialists who have laid out their recommendations for Indian autonomy. "The experience of these past few days have been possible because of the contributions from these people," the Zapatistas said. As a sign of how much things had changed since the Zapatistas launched their rebellion on January, 1994, rebels walked freely about the town near to dozens of Mexican soldiers.

The Indians, dressed in brightly-coloured Mayan clothing, still kept their identities hidden with their trademark ski-masksr.

At least 150 people were killed when the Zapatistas launched their rebellion, but there has been little fighting since then.

Irish TV show DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) -Rickie Lee Jones pulled out of an Irish television show after producers refused to allow her to sing a song that could offend some religious sensibilities. The state RTE television network said it feared the song _ called 'The Altar Boy' __ would be misinterpreted in Ireland, where several Catholic priests have been accused of sexually abusing altar boys. Jones said RTE's decision not to let her sing the song on the "Kenny Live" programme on Saturday, was "based on current news and not on the lyrical content of my work. Had I not been asked to withdraw this song on this basis, I might have been performing another song. But to do so under these

circumstances would be to condone censorship," she said. The Altar Boy, written three years ago, tells the story of "a chaste man who strived to maintain his commitment to the pure faith in the face of tremendous temptation," Jones said. Kenny Live producer Noel Currin said the song title could have been misunderstood because "of recent controversies." But he denied Jones had been censored and insisted that

the decision was made "purely on a programming Actress enjoys

exploration of sex,

violence in movies

NEW YORK (AP) -Actress Holly Hunter doesn't agree that movies have too much sex and violence. "I enjoy an exploration of sex. I enjoy an exploration of violence. That's why I go see movies. That's why I go see plays. Because usually you find out a lot about who people are," the actress says in W magazine's November issue. One of Hunter's latest movies, Copycat, doesn't shy away from violence --it's about a serial killer who Home For The Holidays, directed by Jodie Foster.

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Security forces prepare for a cordon-and-search operation in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo following tight security measures enforced in the wake of Tamil Tiger guerrilla attacks on key oil reserves (AFP photo)

Russia closes registration for parliamentary polls

MOSCOW (R) — More than 40 political parties submitted applications to run in Russia's parliamentary election before Sunday's midnight deadline but only eight of them can be confident they will be allowed into the race.

The deputy head of the Central Electoral Commission, Alexander Ivanchenko, told a news conference Monday that most of the 43 applicants had turned with the required 200,000 signatures of support in the final hours of the countdown.

The deadline passed before commission staff had finished stamping the petitions of support for the Democratic Russia Movement, so the group which led President Boris Yeltsin to power in 1990 is out of the contest, Mr. Ivanchenko

But Mr. Yeltsin's key ally, Prime Minister Viktor Chemomyrdin's bloc Our

the eight groups whose registrations for the Dec. 17 poll have already been officially announced.

Also among the certain runners are the president's main opponents, Communists, Agrarians and ultranationalists.

Papers submitted by 35 other groupings will be scrutinised by the commission in the next 10 days for possible mistakes and deliberate violations of regulations, Mr. Ivanchenko said.

Electoral Commission head Nikolai Ryabov told reporters Saturday that police had investigated complaints of bribery, doorstep threats and other sharp practices by party workers.

He said reported abuses included buying votes, veiled threats and the widespread practice by many party workers of claiming the affiliation of wellknown people, without their knowledge, to win support. The atmosphere around
"We have sent certain the checks by the Electoral

complaints to the Interior Ministry and they will take sanctions," Mr. Ryabov

Even after formal registration, a political bloc may be expelled from the election race for violating the rules of the campaign.
ITAR-TASS news agency

quoted members of the Électoral Commission as predicting that about 30 political parties would make it through to the polls at which 450 seats in the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, will be contest-

Mr. Ryabov has said having so many political parties is more likely to make a mess of the election than to contribute to democracy in Russia.

He has said voters may be confused by having to make their choices from a long line of parties, most of which lack any definite political orientation.

Competing parties will

have to win at least five per cent of the total vote to enter the Duma.

law and presidential statements cannot effect its work," he said. A total of 225 seats in the Duma will be decided by

party lists. The other half

will be decided by voting in

single-mandate constituen-

Commission became more

heated after a statement by

Mr. Yeltsin last week that

his aim was not to allow

Communists or ultra-

nationalists to win the poll.

The Communists struck

back, saying that any pres-

sure on them during the

campaign should be viewed

as inspired by Mr. Yeltsin.

Mr. Ivanchenko brushed off

suggestions of possible

"The Central Electoral

Commission bases its work

on the appropriate federal

killed in Sri Lankan fighting sands of soldiers, supported by battle tanks, artillery and warplanes, captured rebel regions close to Jaffna City.

25 soldiers, 50 Tamil rebels

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — At least 25 soldiers and 50 Tamil rebels were killed in northern Sri Lanka over the weekend in the bloodiest fighting in the latest military offensive to capture the guerrilla stronghold, a military official said

More than 100 soldiers were wounded in Sunday's fighting close to Jaffna, 300 kilometres north Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka, a military official said on condition of anonymity.

The government says its objective is to capture Jatina, the headquarters of the Liberation Tigers for Tamil Eelam who have been fighting for a Tamil homeland in the north and east of Sri Lanka since 1983. More than 36,000 people have been killed.

But the rebel resistance toughened even as thouMilitary claims that the latest offensive launched last week is the biggest in the 12-year ethnic war.

Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe, the military spokesman, told reporters Sunday that at least 350 rebels and 76 soldiers had been killed in the first five days of the offensive code named "Operation Sun Rays." Another 500 rebels and 243 soldiers have been injured in the fighting.

On Sunday, warplanes and field guns pounded guerrilla positions throughout the day but the rebels fought back fiercely with mortar. rocket and machine gun fire. Troops, who were only eight kilometres from Jaffna Saturday, could advance less than one kilometre

The government has tightened security in Colombo and in villages in the northeast fearing more attacks by the rebels in a bid to halt the offensive.

On Saturday, the rebels shot and hacked to death 66 Sinhalese civilians, including women and children, during attacks on three villages in northeastern Sri Lanka, the military said.

The killings came a day after the militants took their battle to the Sri Lankan capital, blowing up two large oil depots. Twenty-six people, including 23 military personnel, died in fighting that followed the explo-

"We bave taken additional security measures...These few weeks are very crucial because of the escalation of the offensive in Jaffna." said Dharmasiri Senanavake, the minister for media, tourism and avia-

The international airport, state-owned radio and television stations and a government newspaper group were some of the installations that have additional security deployed, said Mr. Senanayake.

Police said at least 500 Tamils have been detained in cordon and search operations for rebels in Colombo. Their antecedents will be checked before they are released.

Peace talks between the two sides broke down last April and the rebels ended a three-month truce. More than 3.200 people have been killed since then.

Tamils, who comprise 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 17 million people, claim discrimination by the majority Sinhalese in education and jobs. The Sinhalese control the government and the mil-

Talks to resume as fighting continues in Chechenya

MOSCOW (AFP) — Talks to resolve the Chechen conflict are set to resume Tuesday in Grozny amid repeated violations of a ceasefire which each side blames on the other.

Several people were killed and others wounded in Russian shelling of villages southwest of the Chechen capital, a Chechen peace negotiator quoted ^ Interfax News Agency said Sunday.

A spokesman for the Russian military command in Chechenya said the artillery fire was in response to attacks by Chechen separatists. He said federal forces had come under fire from separatists 50 times in the past 24 hours and three Russian -- soldiers -- were wounded.

The talks were suspended on Oct. 9 after Anatoly Romanov, the commander far as admitting that the of the Russian forces in the tiny Muslim Cancasus republic, was seriously injured in an assassination attempt. He is still in a coma.

Negotiations on implementing a July 30 demilitarisation accord had been advancing painfully slowly even before they were suspended, but their resumption seems to indicate the Kremlin's desire to see them through in the face of hardliners in the military who want to impose a solu-

tion by force. At least 30,000 people, most of them civilians, have died since Russian troops marched into Chechenya in December to quell a threeindependence year-old.

drive_ .. Russian President Boris conflict could have been avoided. "so many people have been killed there," he said. "It is the biggest disappointment of my presiden-

Mr. Yeltsin and his negotiating team still faces strong pressure from hardliners on sides. Minister Pavel Grachev claimed Friday that 6,000 Chechens, backed by merconaries from the former Soviet Union and beyond, were planning large-scale military operations.

But with only two months from legislative elections. continuance of the military option would be a clear liability to Mr. Yeltsin's supporters.

In a cabinet meeting Thursday Gen Grachev was slapped down by Prime Chernomyrdin when he criticised the effectiveness of the negotiations. The premier said everything possible should be done to resolve the problem by political means.

Oleg Lobov, Mr. Yeltsin's special representative for Chechenya, was quoted by Interfax as saying in Grozny Saturday that the president and the government were optimistic.

But on the ground the separatists have not gone away. Their green flags fly once more in many places, including Grozny, where intense exchanges of fire can be heard on occasion.

The process of reconstruction in the devasated republic, meanwhile, has made no

Yeltsin tightens grip on Foreign

Ministry because of his dissatisfaction with Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, an aide said.

Sergei Medvedev, Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman, said Mr. Kozyrev remained in his post for now — despite fierce criticism of his work the president and Russian parliament.

But he confirmed Mr. Yeltsin would name a deputy to help coordinate the ministry's work on his behalf, indicating that he is ready to accept almost complete personal responsibility for foreign policy.

"The president thinks it necessary to coordinate all

"He is not satisfied with the work of the foreign minister and sees ways to make the ministry's work better ... Nikolayevich (Yeltsin) has drawn attention to the need to select a deputy to Kozyrev to carry out organisational work." he said

Mr. Medvedev gave no firm clues to the long-term future of the embattled minister, but denied the doubts over his future were affecting his work alongside Yeltsin at the U.N. meeting. Mr. Yeltsin said last Thursday he was looking

for a replacement for Mr. Kozyrev, who has forged foreign policy activities ties with the west in his five

UNITED NATIONS (R) — himself," Mr. Medvedev years in office but is President Boris Yeltsin is told a news conference duraccused in Russia of letting shadow banging over Mr. extending his personal coning the United Nations' 50th Moscow be sidelined in Kozyrev had not had any rsary celebrations international peace moves for Bosnia.

He later clarified his comments by saying Mr. Kozyrev, 44, would stay for now, although a deputy would be appointed to help coordinate the ministry's work.

Mr. Yeltsin's apparent readiness to be even more closely identified with foreign policy than now is

Nationalists Communists have sharply criticised Russian foreign policy and only the adoption of a tougher stance against the West would be likely to appease them. Such moves could endanger ties with the West.

the sidelines of the U.N. anniversary celebrations. "It has not affected the talks." he said.

Mr. Yeltsin has held several meetings with world leaders attending the gathering and has a summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton ontside New York Monday. Mr. Kozyrev had dinner with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Saturday.

"Everything bears witness to the fact that Mr. Kezyrev is continuing work, continuing to hold negotiations and continuing to carry out his duties," Mr. Medvedev said.

Canada confused, upset by Quebec separatism OTTAWA (AFP) - Cana- eral election, increasing its fervour in Quebec has Francophone dians living outside Quebec parliamentary representa- sparked off dreams by a Catholics before Quebec tion to 52 seats from the single seat it had earned in a

appear confused and upset by the desire of Frenchspeaking Quebeckers to leave the Canadian Confederation.

Quebeckers go to the polls on Oct. 30 in a referendum on the question of independence from the rest of the nation.

In general, the confusion and lack of understanding for the nationalist aspirations of the Ouebec separatists grows the further one is away from Quebec. In the prairies

Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta - and British Columbia, there is absolutely no comprehension of the need for a national Canadian policy of bilingualism and there appears to be resentment that Ouebec's 7.3 million people would want total constitutional equality with the rest of Canada in a nation of 29 million people.

These frustrations are probably best represented by the Reform Party which had overwhelming success in the west in the 1993 genby-election during the previous parliament.

Reform also has one parliamentary seat from Ontario, but none east of Ontario. It did not even field any candidates in Quebec, although it says that it will do so in the next general election - assuming Quebec is still part of Canada.

Reform's policies include abolishing bilingualism as a federal policy and as a condition of employment in the higher echelons of the federal government, leaving the question of language to each of the provincial governments.

In the maritime provinces, the fear is that a nation physically divided into two - with a separate state of Quebec in the middle will be as ungovernable as Pakistan was when it comprised eastern Pakistan now Bangladesh - and a western half, with India in

Ironically, the nationalist

small minority in British Columbia and Alberta of those two provinces setting up their own separate states, or perhaps merging into a new nation of western

Canada. .And this in turn has made easterners worry as all the maritime provinces, composed of Prince Edward İsland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, rely heavily on federal "transfer payments" to shore up their economy.

Two of the largest providers of these funds are Alberta and British Columbia. In New Brunswick, the

fears are also cultural. New Brunswick is the only province of Canada which is officially bilingual. with roughly 40 per cent of

its population being Francophone and the other 60 per cent Anglophone. The French of New Brunswick are, however, from different stock than the majority of Ouebeckers.

They are Acadians and sur-

became part of Canada.

In recent, years, the Acadians have proudly rebuilt their French roots, culture and language. Canada's current governor-general, Romeo Leblanc, is the first Acadian ever to hold this post as head of state in Canada_

But Quebeckers still distance themselves from other Franco-Canadiens, pointing out that while the three prairie provinces were originally settled by French immigrants, they have all become virtually English speaking Francophones being forced to assimilate with the

English-language society. The 1991 Canadian census tends to support this view, showing that 1,000,000 Canadians living outside Quebec considered themselves Francophone, but less than 650,000 of them continued to speak vived a British purge of French at home.

World leaders pay homage to

is the last of the celebrate UNITED NATIONS (R) in provide hands liville. The world's leaders from President Bill Clinton to the three-day anniversary shown for three divine Russia's Boris Yeltsin to celebrations, said the world Prince Author He Cuba's Fidel Castro paid territ benefilmen homage to the United Vist Will chall be Nations on its 50th anniversary, but could not agree will let h more than Sunday on how to make the million manes (\$125 world body more credible in

the 21st century. At the same time, there was no sentiment from any corner of the world to weak-Gamblers swarf en the United Nations. with to Greece's net many developing countries demanding it take a far greater role in economic policy and projects that would benefit them.

TOTAL TRANS. Green Las Vegas-ask The new agenda of the plan has come in United Nations with its Cherry Schold Brand heavy emphasis on peacethe panters at fleeth keeping operations has for the dance office of the formal to the fo impacted adversely on the development process," said show the said will fe President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga of Sti Lanka

Craf manager hare says and comments The North-South split chens day and ithe thems daily and its of Samiday (new or) countries was more evident

man ever and Mr. Castro hammered away at the hammered away at the hammered away at the hammered away at the hammered hammered away at the hammer hammer hammered hammered away at the hammer hammered ham The long of the lo

Mr. Clinton, who opened still needed the United Nations. "And so for another 50 years and beyond, you can count the United States

But Irish President Mary Robinson warned that "if we do not infuse the United Nations ... with a new strength of purpose and a new sense of direction I fear that the praise we give to the U.N. from this rostrum over these days will come in time to be read as its epi-

United Nations staff, however, this week are doing what they can do well organising a world event which saw Mr. Clinton, Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Castro and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on the same podium in the same two hours.

With more than 180 prime between tich and poor ministers, presidents, kings and other officials convergthan ever and Mr. Castro ing on New York for the largest summit in history, the main events went smoothly.

find ways to make Congress pay the \$1.25 billion that the United States owes to the United Nations, mainly for expanding peacekeeping ventures.

He also promised "that the

United States will be there

with our friends and allies" to help secure peace in Bosnia if the combatants reach an accord during peace talks next week. But minutes later Mr. Yeltsin said Russia would contribute troops to a peacekeeping force only if they

were subject to a strict

Security Council mandate,

directly opposing Mr. Clinton's move to bave it commanded by NATO. The United States and Russia then differed over who should control future peacekeeping troops in Bosnia, a key issue in their Monday meeting in Hyde

Park, New York.

Acid comments were not lacking as New Zealand and Japan attacked France and China again over their resumption of nuclear test-

President Portuguese Mario Soares criticised the "outrageous situation" in Timor, whose East decolonisation he said had been "brutally interrupted" by 20 years of Indonesian

occupation. And Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati condemned what he called United States "economic terrorism" and "self-arrogated leadership" in the

United Nations. But for sheer pagentry, it was Mr. Castro who played a starring role in the United Nations and on the streets of New York.

At the United Nations he cast himself as the spokesman of downtrodden small nations, demanding a democratisation of the world body and railing against the big powers' veto right in a speech that stuck to its five-minute limit. Then he shucked his dark

double-breasted suit to don his trademark olive-green fatigues for a speech at a Harlem church and a trip down memory lane to the nearby Theresa Hotel that once gave him shelter.

"The incredible thing is that I am still expelled. I am still being left out of the dinners and the receptions and the banquets as if nothing had changed all these years. It's cold inside but it's no longer the cold war," he told the crowd.

Tourists flock to Asian sites on eclipse watch

(R) — Tourists flocked to some of Asia's most magnificent sites Monday to watch the rare shadow of a total solar eclipse. In Cambodia, tourists

were arriving in their hun-

ANGKOR WAT, Cambodia

dreds at the magnificient 12th-century Angkor Wat Temple, the world's largest religious structure, for Tuesday's phenomenon. In north India, many chose the abandoned Mogbul city of Fatebpur

site of the world's largest gate, to watch the spectacle. The eclipse will fall partially on the Taj Mahal. Four hot-air balloons were to videotape the shadow of the moon as it raced across the dome of the fabled wonder of the world.

Sikri near the Taj Mahal and

Many, many more watchers gathered at other places India. Pakistan.

Bangladesh, Burma, Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia to experience the brief spell of daytime darkness as the moon blocks the sun.

The moon's shadow.

which varies in size as it races along a band through South and South East Asia, will be about 100 kilometres wide at most. At Angkor Wat, authorities beefed up security to

keep away monument robbers, bandits and rebels of the outlawed Khmer Rouge guerrilla group for an eclipse that will last one minute and 53 seconds from 1058 local time (0358 GMT). Skies were blue over the

area with some clouds. However, some local residents worried clouds or rain might impair visibility. We have strengthened

security to protect the monument and the people com-

ing to watch the phenome-non," said Toan Chay, governor of Siem Reap province, where the Angkor complex is located. Hotels in Siem Reap City were

fully booked.

ed weapons from all but a special 300-strong police force, to protect the monument and tourists from any hail of gunfire, traditionally unleashed by Cambodians at the sight of a lunar or solar eclipse.

The authorities confiscat-

Special Cambodia sun dances were being planned at Angkor Wat before and after the eclipse. In Malaysia's Sabah state,

where the eclipse will be seen for the longest period on land — two minutes 14 seconds — a carnival atmosphere prevailed.

More than 500 astronomers, marine scientists and wildlife experts set up observatories on the North Borneo Island to study the eclipse's effects on plants, birds and other animals. According to ancient

Hindu myth, an eclipse occurs when the angry monster-god Rahu tries to swallow the sun, and the only way to prevent the disaster is to scare Rahu away. People across parts of South and South East Asia

Rahu away. Brisk sales of protective wear have been reported across Asia and a debate raged in India between rationalists and astrologers

will bang drums and pots

and pans Tuesday to scare

eclipse. In Thailand Tuesday's will be viewed clearly in some provinces and partial-

over the effects of the

Jordan Times

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

MENA deserves chance

LESS THAN a week is left before the convening of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit here in Amman on Oct. 29. With preparatory work in full swing to ensure the success of the conference, we are hoping that the outcome would place Jordan not only firmly on the political map of the region, but also make the Kingdom an attractive centre for investment and economic project launching.

While it is true that we cannot count on reaping automatic and immediate economic dividends from MENA, we can at least expect that the hard work we have put in preparing and holding it will serve two goals at once. These are: focusing the attention of the international community on the possibilities of peace, stability and progress in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as gaining for Jordan itself maximum advantage from the effort it has expended so far as the principal organiser of the conference.

When we talk about peace we certainly have more in mind than reaching political settlements between Israel and the Arab countries. The kind of peace that we hope would flourish should encompass inter-Arab relations which remain strained by past events and festered by mutual mistrust and suspicions.

The Arab-Israeli conflict has dwarfed the Arab-Arab disputes for so long that it is high time that cooperation and coordination among Arab capitals assumed a higher profile on our agenda for the present and future. It would be tragic if resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict turns out to be easier than settling inter-Arab feuds and conflicts of

Through joint economic planning and coordination we have the best opportunity to heal all such wounds and establish the kind of regional institutions that would ensure for political settlements continuity and success. So it is indeed with sadness that we notice that some Arab capitals are hardly on talking terms, and that a number of those capitals have opted to stay away from Amman between Oct. 29 and 31 in a bid to weaken the resolve to build on peace. But then it might well be MENA's job to prove they are

On the other hand, Jordan has done well just to show that the summit can succeed before it begins. This the Kingdom has done, we hope, by sparing no effort to prepare well for it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily criticised the Arab leaders for only offering lip service to the Iraqi people over their present plight and for doing nothing to alleviate their sufferings. By remaining passive, the Arab leaders are accessories to the crime of genocide in Iraq where four million people are facing death due to starvation and where 700,000 children died due to shortage of medicine and food as a result of the U.N.-imposed sanctions, said Samir Otami. The writer said he was not demanding that the Arab countries lift the sanctions on Iraq because they are feeble to take such a step, but the Arab leaders should stop shedding crocodile tears over the sad situation in Iraq, should release the \$1.3 billion they hold as Iraqi deposits and immediately arrange for regular shipments of food and drugs to save Iraqis from starvation. By using the Iraqi people as human shields for the purpose of toppling the regime in Baghdad, the Arab leaders are accomplices to a crime being committed by the enemies of the Arab Nation, Dr. Qtami said. He said the whole world realises that the Iraqis no more possess weapons of destruction and have complied with all U.N. resolutions, two facts that should justify the termination of the sanctions.

By Rami G. Khouri

New

1 31

Muslims, blacks, and supreme America

conference on U.S.-Arab relations while simultaneously following the reaction among the American establishment and middle class to the "million man march" — last week's gathering of about half a million black men in Washington to focus on what they can do to stop the deterioration and degeneration of the black family and commanity. While the two events were not directly related my conference and the black march — they do seem to be related in a manner that tells us much about contemporary American political culture and its interaction with the

The predominant American reaction to events in the Arab World is a strong focus on the phenomenon of political Islam. Any discussion of the Arab World here quickly leads to the issue of Islamism, and, more specifically, the violence of some Islamists in Algeria, Egypt and Palestine or the political practice of so-called "Islamic" regimes in Iran or Sudan. The obvious and very concentrated American preoccupation with a small portion of political culture in the Arab-Islamic world is more than only sociologically interesting. I believe that it reveals much about the nature of U.S. political culture, and thus it behooves us to understand more intimately how and why the American establishment reacts as it does to the two phenomena in question here - political Islam, and the dynamic selfassertion of black men in the USA, led by the controversial leader of the Nation of Islam, Louis Farrakhan.

In both cases, Arab and Iranian Muslims or American black men are expressing a brand of defiance that the American establishment finds both disturbing and threatening. The common theme of Arabs and blacks, in broad terms, is that the prevalent American policies and values of the last century or so have grievously denied Arabs/Muslims and blacks two very important things — a sense of security for one's family rooted in improving material standards of living, and a sense of dignity and humanity rooted in the acceptance of one's culture and values by the mainstream majority of white Americans.

Both Arab Islamists and black Americans like Louis Farrakhan represent something that is more troubling to the American majority than mere defiance — they offer an alternative. They both express anger at their treatment by the now globalising American political culture, but

WASHINGTON, D.C. — I have had the most enjoyable and educational experience this week of participating in a along moral and material lives that are somewhat different from the ways of the American majority. In fact, I suspect that the Islamist Middle East is the only place on earth today that is both trying to resist somewhat the wholesale transformation into a global America, while offering a credible alternative in terms of family, individual and communal values and governance systems. Others who tried to do the same by asserting their cultural validity and distinctiveness in the face of the American behemoth — such as China or India — have given up, and signed up for the promise of American dollars and glitter. Only the Arab and other Middle Eastern Islamists hold on to the possibility that human beings can express their humanity and organise their societies in ways not neces-

sarily made in the USA. The American ideological majority finds this most incomprehensible, bewildering and even threatening, and thus American policy responds with strong military and economic and diplomatic force against Middle East Islamists. Few people in the USA have the time, desire or capacity to recognise that the violent Islamists who kill and oppress in the Middle East are in fact a small minority that is rejected by the majority of Arabs. The U.S. finds useful to exaggerate the importance and power of Middle Eastern Islamists, and to emphasise the great danger it sees to U.S. interests should any Islamists come to power in places other than Iran and Sudan. The U.S. response to Middle Eastern Islamists is very interesting for its lack of thoughtfulness and rationality and democratic pluralism, because that response essentially comprises a narrow combination of violence by local proxies (Arab governments and Israel), threats by the USA, and an odd brand of old-fashioned moralising and preaching. The idea one hears so often from American officials - that they respect Islam but oppose violence — is not very credible because it is degraded by the obvious political vagrancy of the U.S. government's policy of ignoring the worsening suffering of the majority of Muslims in the Middle East, while perpetuating aid, political and other policies that tend to weaken the legitimacy of many Arab governments while promoting the credibility of opposition movements, even some that engage in violence.

The American government's attitude to American blacks is similar, but not so obvious. The single greatest instru-

ment of U.S. government policy towards urban black men is the criminal justice system, especially jails. There are more black men in jails today than there are in higher education institutions. No wonder that some half a million black men heeded the call of Louis Farrakhan last week. The U.S. establishment's response to Farrakhan and his half million men was fascinating to watch. The mainstream majority here prefers to deny the validity of the message of black suffering and despair by disqualifying the credentials of the messenger — the very controversial Mr. Farrakhan. This strategy will only backfire. I would guess, because it will simply perpetuate the conditions in poor neighbourhoods that gave rise to the message and the messenger in the first place. It is interesting how similar are conditions in poor American slum neighbourhoods and poor Arab slum neighbourhoods today.

Central Cairo and central Detroit have suddenly come very close together. It is no surprise that American blacks and Middle Eastern Muslims should both express anger at the dominant American political power structure, and that they should express that anger in a vocabulary of nationalist particularity and exclusivism that resists total subservience to the hegemony of American power. It is also interesting to see the central role of religion and religious leaders in leading the resistance to American domination. And finally, it is interesting to see the white power majority in the USA reacting in a similar way to the defiance of beaten men in the Middle East and in poor, urban America reacting with violence, threats, preaching and a general desire to ignore the real problems of the world rather

than to come to grips with them. Many of the thoughts of Louis Farrakhan deserve to be criticised and ridiculed, just as many of the actions or ideas of Islamists in the Middle East can be criticised and objected to. But this is political immaturity and even irresponsibility, if it leads the U.S. government and power elite to ignore the suffering and needs of the millions of people who live in the tortured societies whence Farrakhan and M. Eastern Islamists emanate. If the messengers and even the messages are problematic for America, the underlying human needs of communities in despair should not be. These are instructive yet troubling times in America, both for America and the world that

cannot any longer escape its powerful embrace.

Is it race or class that is splitting America?

By Gwynne Dyer

IS AMERICA a society gradually splitting apart along racial lines, as the more apocalyptic commentators on the O.J. Simpson verdict would have us believe? Of course not. It is splitting, but the lines are about class, not race.

"Most whites are basically indifferent to blacks, but they are certaintly not trying to oppress them or hold them down," wrote Jared Taylor in his dissenting book about the failure of race relations in America, 'Paved With Good Intentions.' "If the U.S. has a real problem, it is not whites hating blacks. It is much more a problem of blacks bating whites."

Taylor is closer to the truth than most people, but the definitions need to be tightened. Not all blacks hate whites, but the black under-class does, and who could blame them? (Like most oppressed people, they also hate themselves, which is why black teen-age males in the U.S. are six times likelier to be murdered -almost always by other blacks — than white teenage males).

Taylor is also right in saying that most American whites do not hate blacks. If they did, Colin Powell could never think of running for president, for over 80 per cent of American voters are still white. But most middle-class Americans of all races sense the hatred of the black under-

class and are terrified by it. And many of the police who man the front lines against this black underclass in America's big cities are racist, because that is what their working environteaches them. Relatively few are as bad as ex-Los Angeles Police Department detective Mark Fuhrman, the man whose tape-recorded racist ravings



happened? Because in both cases an overwhelming weight of evidence against the accused was swept aside by racist preconceptions of

Yet there is no race war brewing in the U.S. It is a class war, and there are blacks on both sides of the barricades.

The African-American population of the United States, according to the 1990 census, was about 30 million, or just around one-eighth of the total. According to the census rules, a household income of \$35,000 a year makes a family middle-class — and 9 million blacks met that

Lyndon Johnson's Great Society worked. Affirmative action worked. At least one-third of American blacks, and probably more, have escaped from the under-class. In 1970, only 15.3 per cent of blacks had any college education' today the figure is 48.3 per cent (compared to 59.8 per cent for whites).

Just as most American

continue The new black middle class is especially visible in

they were caught in midstream by a shift in the political climate when only a third had already made it onto the middle class.

"Blacks remain on the

left, and everybody else has moved to the right," observes political scientist William Schneider of the American Enterprise Institute. "Blacks are the only constituency in this country who have no quarrel with Big Government, Big Government saved them from slavery in the 1860, and rescued them from segregation in the

Catholics and Jews continned to vote Democratic for several generations after they escaped from the immigrant slums of the late 19th century, so do 90 per cent of African-Americans to vote Democratic today. But two-

thirds of white males voted Republican in recent U.S. elections, in a blacklash that was more about economics and gender, than race, and governments elected by those 'angry white males' the inner ring of suburbs have stalled the process of his name, listing over 120

Moreover, those astonishing statistics about onethird of American blacks in their 20s being in jail, on probation or on parole at any given time actually understate the problem. For if another third of the black population has joined the middle class, then it means that literally half the young males in the under-class are trapped in the criminal jus-

tice system. In the meantime, the nation's police are left with the job of containing the nihilistic, insurrectionary populations of the black ghettoes, with no relief in sight. It makes the best of them bitter. The worst of them become Fuhrmans, and even middle class blacks like O.J. Simpson are

not safe in their hands. That's not to say that Simpson is not a murderer. But if he wasn't, Fuhrman would have framed him

anyway. Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman are dead, and no verdict would have brought them back. O.J. Simpson has filed for federal trademark registration of

Saving lives before MENA

To the Editor:

AT THE intersection outside our house the number of collisions peaked during the summer, at about a rate of one per week.

The damage ranged from minor, accompanied

by much shouted acrimony, to major with the gar-den wall of the house diagonally opposite to ours, decimated and the occupants of the involved vehi-cles taken to hospital. Police have been summoned to the scene many times.

Then miraculously, one month ago, two small stop signs appeared. Alas, the one on our side of the junction was toppled after a mere two weeks and after lying on the ground for several days, vanished altogether.

At present, legion municipality workers are to be seen around West Amman busily erecting benches and other eye-pleasing features to impress MENA conference participants. But it is probably too much to hope for the reap-

pearance of our sign which might actually achieve something like saving life and limb.

> Catherine Redden, Um Uthaina, Amman

Demanding equal rights

To the Editor:

I CANNOT but totally agree with Mrs. Karen Asfour (Rights for Women, Jordan Times, October 22) on the need for Jordanian women to pss on their nationality to their children. I, for one, have had to renew my daughter's residence permit for the last 11 years just becuse the father is of a different nationality. She is a student at a Jordanian school and has been living in Jordan since 1984 since 1984.

In most countries of the world one can obtain the citizenship of that country just by living there for a minimum of 5 years, regardless of the fact that one of the parents holds the citizenship by birth. I think it is time that we gave equal rights to all citizens, regardless of the sexes and thus be true to the democracy we all aspire to.

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Catherine Redden. Lan Uthaina.

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Now read all about it

John Carvel on how the Guardian won a famous victory over the secretive legislators of the EU after a three-year battle for more freedom of information

THE GUARDIAN's knock- tion, it gave grounds for and November 1993, which out victory at the European Court in Luxembourg last week will, we hope, have some salutary effect on our opponents, the council of Ministers of the European Union (EU). The council is certainly the most powerful of the EU institutions, but there is no reason why it should continue to be the most secretive and arrogant.

I brought the case as a private citizen and was supported by the paper as an interested party. We acted because we thought the council behaved hyprocritically and unlawfully when it denied us access to documents which should have been available under its freedom of information

When I was posted to Brussels three years ago, I soon came to the conclusion that this council operated under rules which were alien to the European democratic tradition. While preaching the virtues of transparency, it legislated behind closed doors. On most working days ministers would fly in from their national capitals to consider laws which, when passed, would be binding on the EU's 350 million citizens. But the citizens were not allowed to know what was being done in their name. London

Eurosceptics tended to rant against the European Commission as if it was to blame for everything which diminished national sovereignty. They got it wrong. The commission's job has always been to propose new laws and administer existing ones. The real power to decide whether legislation passes — and in what form — lay with the ministers of member states, subject to a little tinkering at the margin by the MEPs. To that extent the council has operated like a parliament, but - unlike all the parliaments of Europe — the legislative EU ambassadors which prestages of its deliberations were confidential and without a verbatim transcript. Even the highly condensed

minutes of decisions were classified. For those of us who had no objection in principle to the pooling of national sovereignty to achieve common European goals, this secretive approach was an affront to democracy. For others of a more Eurosceptic disposi-

deep suspicion. Of course, plenty of information was given out on what went on in the secret legislative sessions. The latest drafts of directives were leaked systematically and national spokesmen descended periodically to spin their rival lines about how their ministers were having an excel-lent influence. The journalists usually made a reasonable attempt at piecing together several sets of balf-

truths into more or less accurate reports. But the system ensured that a bedrock of unassailable fact was never available as of right to the citizens. It was never possible to state with absolute certainty that a particular minister behaved in a particular way. The people could never hold their representa-

tives accountable. At the outset, this undemocratic system may have unavoidable. The Treaty of Rome was the result of a benevolent conspiracy by the élites of Europe to integrate their peoples to prevent them fighting another war. Treating legislation as if it was a form of secret diplomacy was a part of this paternalist approach. Yet by the autumn of 1992

- after the Danes voted against the Maastricht treaty, and the French nearly followed - it became obvious to most of the players in the Brussels game that action had to be taken to make the decision-making process less remote. After more than a year of debate, the council agreed a code of conduct promising "the widest possible access to documents." It came into force early last year. I was one of the first to put in an application under the code asking for three sets of council minutes and suppapers from Coreper, the committee of cooks the ministerial agen-

At the end of the month allowed under the code for reply, I received a letter from a Mr. Goebel, the council librarian responsible for the freedom of information policy, who subsequently became known to document-seekers as Dr. No. He enclosed a full set of documents from the Social Affairs Councils of October

formed the basis for a useful article about how Britain secured an opt-out from a directive against the exploitation of child labour. However, other documents from the Justice and Agriculture councils were withheld "to protect the institution's interests in the confidentiality of its pro-

I used an appeal proce-

dures to challenge this rul-

ceedings."

ing. In May 1994, a month after the deadline for reply, the EU foreign ministers rejected the appeal and told me that the social affairs material had been sent by mistake "owing to the novelty of the procedure for allowing public access. This was the decision which landed the council in court. Its instification for refusing to release the documents was a catch-all clause in the code of conduct which allowed it to withhold anything in the interests of maintaining confidentiality. But the council gave no reason for withholding these particular documents. In fact, we later discovered that there was a reason. In a panicky response to my tiresome demands, the council laid down a blanket ban on

the disclosure of any minutes which might reveal national points of view. We knew this from a leaked memo by the council's own legal service which admitted that officials were systematically refusing access: but the memo could not be used in court without the council's permission.

Proposals were tabled to give middle-ranking officials the power to decide which ministerial statements could safely be released. Since the committee dealing with this matter was known in Brussels as the GAG — the Groupe Affaires Generales — the prospects for greater openness were sounding bad. But help was at hand. The

Guardian asked European Parliament the governments
Denmark and of Netherlands — all strong supporters of openness - to intervene formally. We knew that such interventions at the European Court were normally limited to support for other member states or EU institutions. It was unprecedented for national governments to

back a citizen against the other members of the Council of Ministers club. But with careful lobbying we secured the help we wanted.

The case achieved some celebrity across much of northern Europe, particularly in Sweden and Finland exponents of maximum transparency — as those countries moved towards their referendums on joining the EU. Their admission into membership in January began to tilt the balance towards reform. Ireland joined the reformers, partly as a result of a revulsion against secrecy caused by the Irish beef-tribunal scandal. A middle group, including Britain, Austria, Greece and sometimes Spain, sometimes joined in to secure a majority for the open camp. After more than a year of written pleadings, the case came up for an oral hearing in July. The council's lawvers assured the judges that it never operated a blanket ban on disclosure of minutes, but the Danes and the Dutch said this was untrue. The judges barried the council side with a series of probing questions. Earlier this month the

council agreed a Danish proposal which ought to open up the minutes of future law-making sessions of the council. Last week the judges ruled that the council cannot hide behind rules of procedure which gave more priority to confidentiality than to citizens' rights of access.

The court found that the illegality of the ban on disclosing minutes was so clear-cut that it did not have to examine the Guardian's more far-reaching arguments that EU citizens have a fundamental right to know what happens when EU laws are made. This was a pity. Our case, based on the EU treaties, the European Convention of Human Rights and practice in the member states, seemed compelling.

These are the arguments which will now inevitably be put at the 1996 inter-governmental conference to review the Maastricht treaty. Plans to give the public access to the first and third readings of the council's legislative proceedings appear to be attracting consensus support from the member states and commission. For our part, we are content that we have nudged the debate in the right direction and have established the first chapter of EU law on freedom of information. We have established the legal floor, but we are still a long way from the ceiling.

The UN at 50: Lots of unfinished business, little wherewithal

By Amy Henderson Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The evening news and the morning paper may make one forget that today is the 50th anniversary of the United Nations and that this week is World Week of Peace, proclaimed by the UN General Assembly. Signed on this date in 1945, the United Nation's Charter established the first universal organisation dedicated to achieving world peace and security and striving for social progress.

Today the peoples of the United Nations mark the fiftieth anniversary of the only truly universal organisation in humanity's history," said UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali in his United Nations Day message. "In the UN was born the concept of peacekeeping, a permanent contribution to the age-old search for peaceful solutions. In the UN was heard. . .the voices of the poorest of the poor. Here the difficult issues of development have received the most productive attention. In the United Nations, the new nations of the world came to take their rightful place as member states. Here sovereignty and statehood come together as the foundation-

stones of an emerging international community. The UN's annals chronicle numerous praiseworthy achievements and endeavours. Since its inception the world body has negotiated 172 peaceful settlements which ended regional conflicts; minimised the threat of nuclear war; eradicated smallpox from the farthest reaches of the earth and continues to press for universal immunisation against

NAIROBI (AFP) — The

office said.

Comoros government on

whooping cough and tuberculosis. Finally, and possibly most notable for this region, the UN has sought an equitable solution for millions of Palestinian refugees uprooted by the Arab-Israeli wars of 1948 and 1967, in the meantime providing free schooling and essential healthcare and social services.

While the UN's good deeds are well recognised, recent years have forced the world body to reckon with several setbacks and outright failures. A harrowing failure in Somalia set the tone for (non) intervention in Yugoslavia where, having wavered too long over the issue, the UN's jurisdiction was finally usurped by NATO. In the Middle East, the UN's role has been assumed by the United States and Russia, although the basis for a final settlement is derived from UN resolutions.

The close of the UN's first half century as it looks on to the next seems an appropriate time to consider what the future role the UN should assume in world affairs.

But in pondering the future role of the organisation, there is "no good answer," responded Dr. Hazem El-Beblawi, UN Under Secretary General and ESCWA Executive Secretary in Amman. Disunity among the UN general assembly member states is easily evident. Mr. Beblawi pointed out, and as it celebrates its 50th anniversary, the UN is owed a grand total of \$3.2 billion in overdue budget assessments, which has led to an acute shortage of funds. The UN is only a result

of what the member states

tory period after the cold war. . .our role then was to bring a forum acceptable to both blocks." People always thought, he said, that after the end of the east-west conflict the organisation would become more cohe-

"Experience shows that this isn't always the case," he continued. "We are now in a fluid situation where, although a major impediment to international cooperation was removed, there is also a move among states to favour bi-lateral instead of multi-lateral efforts."

Today, as he explained, the UN faces a battle on two fronts: financial and intellectual.

The looming problem is how the UN will continue to perform without sufficient means from budget contributions of member states. "When small countries fail to pay, you can enforce penalties," he said. "When it comes to the biggest and richest country, theoretically you can apply the same,

but it's impractical. "The UN is in an awkward situation because of this: the US (which owes \$1.4 billion in arrears) is the major contributor. It can't pay, but it won't tolerate other states being the largest contribu-

The UN is also struggling to overcome its image of being an unmanageable bureacracy. While there is no doubt that the organisation has become, by virtue of its size and multi-national nature, as bureaucratic as any government body, Dr. El-Beblawi said the case of the UN is often exaggerated. "The UN is no more wasteful than advanced countries - but that's not an argument for

failing to work for improve-

ment, which we are doing." Also, he explained, the UN, while trying to reform its bureaucracy, is also try-ing to reform its thinking to correspond with the emerg-

ing new world order.
"We have intellectual baggage," he said. "This generation looks to the future with the memory of the past - which was dominated by the cold war and conflict.

"Peace and security were synonymous. Today we know that security is affected by many things; civil strife, racial discrimination, environment and economic issues. And peace (cannot be) disassociated from development. We can undermine our future not only by war. . . other issues are important, other than simply avoiding war.

The UN hasn't reached a "clear vision" of its future, but Dr. Beblawi pointed out that the world body already plays a significant social and economic role through institutions such UNICEF. UNRWA, the WHO. UNESCO and many others. "Non-political activities are more than two-thirds of UN activities," he said. The "political body", General Assembly, asserts, is just not "trained" in this area.

So what should the international community expect of the UN for the next 50 years or even the next decade? Dr. El-Beblawi hopes for a wider role for the above agencies, but "there is total confusion right now."

The signals change from year to year, but for the moment I think the mood is to cut waste and have a slimmer UN and at the same time emphasise (social

Israel may speed up pullout

(Continued from page 1)

(Continued from page 1)

Hebron will pave the way for general elections. The elections, to a Palestinian autonomy council, will take place on Jan. 22, according to Mr. Tsur, who suggested that a curfew should be placed on the towns if

recessary to avoid demonations during the pullout. We must protect the honour of our army, which is leaving certain parts of the West Bank after controlling it

I can understand that (the Palestinians) are very happy to see the army leave the territories. But we must en-Sure that the army leaves in a honourable fashion.

Palestinians decorated Jenin on Monday as thousands of Israeli Arabs growded into it to shop from its cheaper market two days before Israel begins its hand-

The bombing was the first

known attack on a mosque in

Saudi Arabia since Muslim

fundamentalists stormed the

Grand Mosque in Mecca in

1979, triggering a bloody

Two Saudis, two Indians,

an Egyptian and an unidenti-

fied person were killed in-

stantly when the mosque in

Quba. 500 kilometres south-

west of Riyadh was bombed

The seventh fatality, iden-

over of the city.

Jenin was festooned with Palestinian flags and streamers and men slapped fresh coats of beige paint on shops. They said the city was never

Palestinians said by Sunday Israel had finished transferring inmates from the prison in Jenin along with equip-

ment and furniture. Senior PLO and Israeli security officers were to meet later on Monday to finalise arrangements for the entry of Palestinian police to the dis-

Palestinians said the shopping rush was spurred by fears Israel will seal off the town during the handover. Israeli Arabs have traditionalaly crossed into Jenin to shop at its market where goods go for haif the price charged in Israel.

tified as Saeed Massoud Al

Al Hayat, which is pub-

lished simultaneously in Lon-

don and Manama, quoted

people in Quba as saying that villagers recognised the bom-

ber when his mask slipped as

hurled two bombs into the

The official Saudi Press

Agency reported Saturday

that two other suspects had

been arrested. It said they

had denied any involvement

Omri, was a Saudi.

"They broke plates and Saudi blast toll rises to 8

PLO seeks mediation (Continued from page 1)

embassies in Nicosia. Capt. Kolidas said about 30 people still had problems. Some had "false passports, others the mother is Lebanese, the father is from

Jordan and the children were disembarked. born in Libya." A Libyan government offi-cial boarded the Countess M to check the passports of the

remaining passengers.

The captain voiced relief that the crisis, at least for most of the Palestinian fami-

lies, was over.
"It was the worst experience of my life because I was responsible for the safety of the ship and passengers, said Capt. Kolidas, admitting that tension on board had spilled over into violence.

There was a lot of trouble on the ship because people did not know where they were going to go or what was going to happen to them. Between them they had disagreements.

threw trays of food at each "I didn't feel threatened because their problem was

The passengers "apologised for their anger" as they

In Copenhagen, a leading Palestinian official on Monday slammed the Libyan expulsions of Palestinians as behaviour contrary to the Middle East peace process and appealed for international help to resolve the problem.

"Qadhafi's behaviour is contrary to the peace pro-cess, human rights and damaging to Arab relations, it does not help anybody,' Palestinian National Authority Planning and International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath told a news confer-

"We must stop these Li-

not against us. We looked after them, their problem was with people outside ignoring them," said the Greek cap-

byan shenanigans somehow, sooner or later our international and Arab friends must help solve this problem," he said. "It is negative to have Palestinians treated like boat

U.S., smaller nations

(Continued from page 1)

to the universal character of the United Nations, voiced concern over the rampant selectivity the organisation shows in several key fields.

"Selectivity ... is rampant, whether in the fields of peace and security, disarmament, conflict resolution, peacemaking, or areas of development, trade, environment and human rights," said Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister. The success of the United Nations in the coming century lies on the concept of sovereign equality among member nations, he said.

"Levels of intrusion are dictated by the agenda of the powerful states. This breeds friction, uncertainty and scepticism, and erodes confidence in the work of the organisation," Mr. Velayati

do if Mr. Djohar insisted on put down a mercenary-led returning, Mr. Chouzour coup begun a week earlier by said: "The conditions of the veteran mercenary Bob Deresolution that is going to be nard. Mr.

Comoros tells Djohar

to stay away for now

Monday asked President Mohammad Ali Djohar, currently in the French Indian cean island of Reunion, to delay his return to the country, the prime minister's Sultan Chouzour, who intended returning to the Inheads Prime Minister Caambi

Al Yacourtou's office, told AFP in Nairobi by telephone that "an extraordinary cabinet meeting has just decided to ask the president to delay his return until the necessary conditions are in "The government believes

that his return now would be ill-timed. He could spark serious public disorder," Mr. Chouzour said. "We hope that President Djohar under-When asked what the

Comorian government would

sent to him by fax this afternoon will be sufficiently explicit.' Mr. Djohar said Sunday he

dian Ocean island nation on Tuesday and urged Comorians towards reconciliation. French foreign ministry spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt said in Paris that Mr. Djohar "is free to go

where he wants." If he wanted to return, "I don't see how we could prevent him," he added. "Developments (in the Comoros) are a matter for the Como-

Mr. Djohar was freed on Oct. 4 when French troops

Chouzour said that round-table discussions heldlast week among the country's various political parties led to the adoption Sunday of a motion backing Prime Minister Yachrutu, who is replacing Mr. Djohar pending elections.

The participants also agreed that presidential elections should be held either on Jan. 21 or March 31 of 1996, if several conditions, notably the setting up of electoral lists, are fulfilled.

Mr. Yachrutu said earlier this month that it would be 'very difficult" for Mr. Djohar to resume power and that opposition parties in a national unity cabinet set up to take control after the coup

bid failed had demanded his ouster as a condition for their support,

That coalition, set up with the support of the French ambassador in Moroni, could collapse if he returned, he added, and "if the coalition falls. it could be very grave." The president was very tired when I saw him," he

added. The 80-year-old president was flown by French authorities to Reunion for a "general medical check-up" after

being freed. His daughter Lelie Djohar said at the time that France had not given him the choice of staying or going, that he had "never been ill" and he

was "not a sick old man." "They said that for security reasons he had to leave" for nearby Mayotte or Reunion, she added, but he was not given "the choice of staying or going."

Regent outlines vision and approach

changes in the region. "Re-habilitation of the Middle East and North Africa region institutions. as a region with an identity" is the goal, said the Crown

— Establishing a firm base for business networking is a key objective of the summit parallel to realising closer interaction with regional and international financial and economic institutions, including United Nations agencies. In this context, the Crown Prince announced that Jordan would be hosting a meeting of 46 ministers of trade in Amman in January under the umbrella of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UN-

CTAD). - Another key goal is setting up a mechanism for policy framework for regional economic cooperation and financing arrangements.

In this context, the Crown Prince said an agreement has been reached between the European Union (EU) and Washington to establish a Middle East development bank. A "green signal" has been

"on the Brussels-

Washington axis" over the proposal for the bank, the Crown Prince said referring to the EU, which is based on the Belgian capital and the Clinton administration.

He did not claborate, but

sent

(Continued from page 1)

said agreements were also emerging on the proposed setting up of other regional

These include a Middle East tourism council and a Middle East business council. The two institutions and the development bank are expected to be announced at next week's summit. - While the United States

has indeed taken the lead in convening the summit, it does not mean that Jordan or the region is pinning its hopes solely on American investments or assistance, the Crown Prince said in answer to a question. Instead, he said, the vision was very broad based, providing for cooperation and interaction with all interested parties on the basis of a clearly economic programme with definite

objectives in sight. Similarly, the several-billion dollar allocation that the European Union has announced as assistance to Mediterranean countries including Jordan — for the next four years is also not the pillar of the economic strategy, the Crown Prince said, adding that it was more important to have a very clear and coordinated approach on a regional basis so that all parties involved

could benefit. -The private sector in the region needs more information and more experience, and the MENA summit will serve as a forum to launch

projects to provide exactly

the same requirements.

Jordan is committed to comprehensive economic development and would have liked to see all countries in the region taking part, he said, adding that Iraq could not take part because of the international sanctions against it, and Iran, Syria and Lebanon had declined to accept invitations to the MENA summit.

The Jordanian approach, according to senior officials preparing for the summit, is that it cannot wait for other countries in the region before it goes ahead with its own agenda for economic development and regional in-

Room will be there for those staying away to take part, but Jordan simply cannot afford to freeze its own approach because of their non-participation, the offi-

cials explained. Looking back at the one year after Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty, the Crown Prince said Jordan. along with Egypt and Israel, has appeared for the first time among the 48 most competitive countries in the world in latest international ratings. Similarly, the Kingdom's creditworthiness rating as set by presitigious institutions has also gone up, he

noted. There was never a "list of promises" or predetermined achievements coupled with the signing of the peace treaty, said the Crown Prince, adding that it was very difficult to pinpoint satisfactions or disappointments on the popular level with the

chievements so far. "One of the peace dividends is (that) Israelis and Jordanians are meeting and agreeing or disagreeing on a number of issues" as neighbours involved in a political and economic process, he

The Crown Prince took a swipe at local tabloids, whose reports, he said, project a picture of a "no-win situation ... (and) that we are living in

The Jordanian-Israeli cooperation agreements already signed and about to be signed as part of the peace treaty is part of the "realisation of the objectives" of developing the Jordan Valley that the two countries share and the development plans are not restricted to simply developing the tourism sectors, he pointed out.

The peace process, he said, has withdstood the "stresses and strains ... despite the violence (in the Palestinian territories), in southern Lebanon and the stalemate" in negotiations between Israel and Syria and Israel and Lebanon.

e **Economy**

Isolated Libya wants share of tourist market

FIR

CAIRO (AFP) - Foreign air travel may be banned because of a three-year-old U.N. embargo but Libya still hopes to put itself on the map by building up its tourism sector.

"We created a ministry of tourism three months ago because we are ready to develop this sector after having given priority to agriculture and industry," said Moham-mad Abulhol, the head of Libya's tourism council.

'Moreover, oil will run out one day and tourism could be a substitute," Mr. Abulhol told AFP.

Tripoli's plan to draw in foreigners comes as the country launches a campaign to throw out more than a million African workers.

The deportees are in the country illegally and burden a Libyan economy already reeling under sanctions, Mr. Abulhol said. "Tourists don't like to see these strange people wandering the streets. They want a clean country." Since April 1992, Libya has

been under an air embargo "This stupid and unfair embargo makes travelling more difficult, but it doesn't effect tourism. We will work it out," Mr. Abulhol said.

Last year, Libya had almost 95,000 tourists, mostly from Germany and Italy, he said. "Tourists are looking for new destinations and Libya offers some great trea-

Chief among them, 2,000 kilometres of hardly touched beachline, the dunes of the Sahara as well as some unique Greco-Roman ruins. especially at Cyrene, known to the ancient world as Leptis

Libya also has prehistoric cave drawings at Machandush and in the Acacus mountains, and Islamic and Christian sites, notably a grotto in which Saint Mark prayed after fleeing Alexandria, Mr. Abulhol said.

He also pointed to a "modern monument": The giant Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi launched in 1983 across the Sahara.

Libya has drawn up with the WTO a master plan to revive its tourist infrastruc-

Currency market heads for crisis

LONDON (AFP) — The French franc and sterling fell suddenly against the mark at midday Monday in trading marked by a high degree of anxiety about the financial and political situation on several fronts and particularly in Italy.

The franc fell below 3.53 to the mark to 3.5354 from 3.5178 late on Friday and the Bank of France maintained its emergency 24-hour rate at 7.0 per cent. Share prices fell sharply in

London, by 1.1 per cent, in Frankfurt by 2.91 per cent, in Paris by 1.36 per cent to the lowest point of the year, and by 1.42 per cent in Milan owing to political crisis in

In Paris a dealer commented: "There is an un-pleasant feeling of calm be-fore a storm. The climate is unhealthy.

The lira fell to 1,163.25 to

the mark from 1,147 late on Friday because former Italian prime minister, and leader of the right-wing opposition. Silvio Berlusconi has tabled a no-confidence motion.

This might attract support from reformed Communists and bring down the technocratic government of Prime Minister Lamberto Dini, leaving Italy without a

budget for next year. In London, David Coleman, an analyst at Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, said: "The damage of the Italian political crisis is not confined to the lira but is also affecting most other currencies and particularly the French franc, sterling and dollar.

"This trend is likely to continue in the long term, and the mark will strengthen while other European currencies will remain under pressure. This is particularly the case for currencies of countries having difficulty in meeting the Maastricht criteria

At Banque Internationale

Christian Dargnat said: "European currencies are generally weak and this is

helping the mark and Swiss franc. which serve as havens, The market would react badly if Dini fell," he warned. The dollar was very weak

The franc has been weak for several weeks because of deep scepticism that the French government can reduce the budget deficit to three per cent of gross domestic product in time to qualify as a founder of a single currency.

Another factor is suspicion that the French government might relax the policy to keep the franc strong: the so-called franc fort policy.
In Paris, where parliament is involved in tough debate

about how to reduce the deficit in the 1996 draft budget. the finance ministry said Monday that the state still had to close a gap of 15 billion francs (\$3 billion) to achieve the planned deficit of year's budget. This was after allowance for special measures already adopted.

in London, sterling fell to below 2.19 marks to 2.1893 from 2.1911 initially and 2.2039 on Friday.

at 1.3890 marks from 1.3975 here late on Friday and it dipped to 99.95 ven from 100.00 on Friday. The chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve, Alan

Greenspan, has warned that if steps are not taken soon to reduce the deficit. long-term interest rates will rise, causing great strains in the economy. Late on Friday the vield on 30-year treasury bonds rose to 6.35 per cent

from 6.30 per cent. In Germany on Monday a member of the central coun-cil of the Bundesbank, Ernst Welteke said that the likelihood that the German repurchase rate would fall from 4.03 per cent to less than 4.0 per cent had receded in recent weeks.

321.6 billion francs in this de Placement in Paris, expert U.S. tells FAO to trim spending

ROME (R) — The United States Monday, told the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to cut costs.

Echoing President Bill Clinton's weekend message to the 50th anniversary congress of the United Nations. U.S. Deputy Agriculture Secretary Richard Rominger told the FAO's governing conference in Rome that Washington still backed the agency's work but wanted it to trim its spending.
"It is essential that FAO

Mr. Rominger told reporters before the speech that the United States, one of FAO's major donors. believed the agency could run its programmes under a 1996/ 97 budget of \$600 million.

have a lower budget." he

That would be nearly \$100 million less than the budget proposed by FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf.

He wants the biennial conference to approve \$697.8 million, which he says means zero growth from the pre-

vious budget. But Mr. Rominger said the proposed budget needed to be brought in line with realistic revenue projections.

He said the U.S. contribution to FAO could be "less than the current year's budget" because Congress. now debating Mr. Clinton's Democratic budget, could cut funding for international

The Republican-controlled Congress, aiming to balance the U.S. budget within seven years, has been weighing proposals that would cut foreign aid by as much as 30

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The FAO conference, which brings together senior officials and agriculture ministers from its 174 member countries, is expected to vote on its budget Friday.

Mr. Rominger said FAO should drop or merge prog-rammes that duplicated those of other agencies, trim administrative duties and reduce the number of employees working in the field.

FAO, housed in a marble complex near the ancient Roman Circus Maximus, was founded 50 years ago with a mission to help the world to feed itself. It has long been criticised by major donors like the United States for runaway spending.

Before Mr. Diouf was elected last year, it employed some 6,000 people, making it one of the U.N.'s largest agencies.

The FAO studies food supply and nutrition, runs agricultural development projects in the Third World, and follows environmental issues such as fishing rights and deforestation.

"The United States continues to believe that much of what FAO does is extremely valuable." Mr. Rominger said, mentioning a FAO monitoring bureau which gives early warning of famine as one of several effective programmes.

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Stable oil prices kill Israel trading incentives

LONDON (R) - Oil derivatives, which promised to be one of the boom markets of the 1990s, are showing signs of running out of puff as shrinking business on the futures exchanges is mirrored in off-exchange market.

Oil price stability, evidenced by a drop in volatility in recent months to the lowest levels in several years, is one of the main problems. Low volatility kills hedging incentives and limits trading opportunities.

But some industry participants also point to fun-damental obstacles which have blocked the development of the market. They see a reluctance by

many oil companies to hedge much of their oil output even when they think oil prices will "We don't hedge a signifi-

cant part of our oil price risk," said Enterprise oil finance director Andrew Shil-

"We don't believe fundamentally that our shareholders would want us to do that. If the oil price doubles and you denied yourself, say, a doubling in the oil price for an extended period shareholders would be annoyed," he

British independent Enterprise is among the most sensitive to oil price fluctuations with a \$1.00-a-barrel drop in oil prices reckoned by analysts to slash \$45 million from its cash flow. With oil prices down \$3.00 since May to below \$16.00, Enterprise shares have shed 20 per cent in the same period to 340

Enterprise's reluctance to embrace oil derivatives is

typical of many oil companies, analysts say. Research by Phillip Verleger of Washington D.C.based oil consultants Charles Rivers Associates shows oil

companies do very little

hedging and most of what

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles

four ordinary words

DARIC

LEXEP

RODION

SHIGLE

Answer:

'NYAHH NYAHH! YMARCIE,THAT'S

THE WORST

CHEER I'VE

EVER HEARD!

WE'RE NICER

THAN YOU!"

coo letter to each square, to form

they undertake is on a shortterm basis.

Filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission show that Enron Corp's capital trading unit stood out as a sophisticated user of derivatives, operating "more or less like a bank." said Mr. Verleger.

Among the oil majors. France's Elf Aquitaine, British Petroleum and Royal Dutch/Shell Group are the most active hedgers, but even they shy away from hedging on a scale that might have significantly impact their performance.

'Most investors still prefer oil companies not to hedge. but if you can prove that you can do better over time by hedging then attitudes might change," said Catherine Arnfield, European oil analyst at J.P. Morgan Secur-

A rare example of aggressive hedging is Argentine oil producer Perez Companq, which has in the past three years sold forward up to 100 per cent of its 21 million barrels a year of oil production with impressive results. The hedge strategy has produced some \$100 million of income which Perez would not of had if it had been at

the mercy of oil prices. The feedback we receive from our investors and analysts is that it is a very good policy and allows us to grow in different areas," said Osvaldo Hansen, a Perez Compang spokesman.

"You hear the managers of oil companies saying 'look, our investors don't want us to hedge," says consultant Verleger. "But the bottom line is that they don't want them to hedge when prices are going up but they do

when prices are going down." But even if oil companies attitudes change, the market still lacks the depth to grow substantially without potential long-term oil buyers.

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OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) - Israel's economy. fuelled by peacemaking with the Arab World and robust immigration, will grow by 6,8 per cent this year, far more than initially predicted, the Central Bureau of Statistics said Monday.

However, the trade deficit is expected to reach about \$10 billion by the end of the year, up from \$7.9 billion in 1994, and nearly double what it was in 1001.

Israel's projected gross domestic product (GDP) growth compares favourably to most developed countries. bureau officials told a news conference. They cited a projected 1995 GDP growth of 2.5 per cent for Germany, three per cent in France and 3.2 per cent in the United

Israel's economy has grown by more than a third since 1990, when a large number of immigrants began arriving from the former Soviet Union, many of them academics, engineers and skilled workers. More than 600,000 immigrants have arrived in the past five years.

At the same time, inflation is decreasing from 14.5 per cent in 1994 to an estimated 8.5 per cent this year.

Despite the positive trends, some warned that Israel's economic policies ignored the growing trade and budget deficits. Economist Zeev Golan

said Israel receives nearly \$10 billion in foreign aid and loans every year, or nearly one-seventh of its GDP.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUES-DAY, OCTOBER 24, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Think about how to make your home life more ideal today and establish greater harmony there. Entertain friends this evening.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is a fine day for contacting old-time friends and renewing the relationships so they can continue far into the future.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Concentrate on improving your monetary status today so that you can have a greater abundance for the lean time in the future.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get in touch with those who comprehened your needs at this time and find out much help you can expect from them at a later

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Contact a successful advisor today and gain suggestions for your greater success. More happiness is possible with your mate this evening. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Plan how to make good friends happier today and increase the prestige you are now enjoying. Get busy at any project which

is started.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Know what your finest ambitions are and get the ball rolling today in such directions. Be happy in the evening in the company or loved ones.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Although somewhat frustrated about any new activities today, you can make big progress just the same since you are ingenious and very knowledgeable.

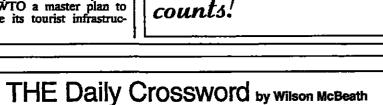
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Organise your responsibilities more wisely so that you can be more productive. Tell your mate just what you want in the near future. CAPRICORN: (December 22

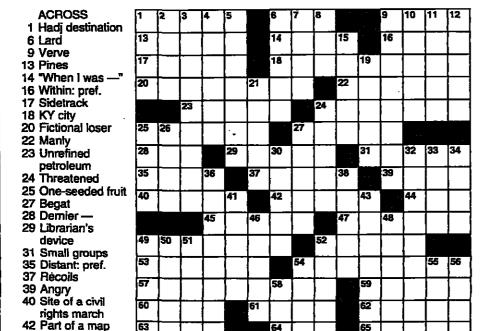
to January 20) If you are very cooperative today, you can initiative and work out a partnership very well at this time. Be wide awake to some worldly affair.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get into project which can last for some time to come and you will have regular income coming in with the possibility of suc-

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Plan the amusements you most like in the days ahead. Then do some big favour for your mate and you will have greater accord and appreciation.

Birthstone of October: Opal Tourmaline





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A C I D U N I T E T H A I
C H R O N I C L E S E R R S

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Francesco Frangialli. The resolution was drawn up during the six-day meeting in Cairo which was attended by 67 tourism ministers and

700 travel agencies. Brazil and other Latin American countries were strongly in favour of the re-

CAIRO (AFP) — Tourism

ministers and travel agencies

combined forces Sunday to

combat the sleazy side of the

tourist industry which feeds off sex and has turned more

than a million children into

The 11th assembly of the

World Tourism Organisation

(WTO) ended Sunday with

the adoption for the first time

of a resolution to fight "sex

tourism organised for pros-

titution, especially when it

affects minors," said WTO

Deputy Secretary-General

"We want to try to prevent

prostitutes worldwide.

"It is a problem which results from poverty and mainly developed in the 1980s. In our country 70 per cent of the population is less than 35, which increases the numbers

Travel agents draw battle

lines to tackle sex tourism

type of exploitation," said a Brazilian delegate, asking to remain anonymous. "We have undertaken to cut out any association between Brazil and sex from our promotion material and we have set up a committee

of minors exposed to this

to identify those tourist agen-cies indulging in such prac-tices," he added. Cuba also backed the resolution to combat what it termed "this aggression" against children.

The resolution calls on governments "to take measures against organised sex tourism" and for businesses and for businesses

Syria, Lebanon seek joint bank to check **Arab-Israeli ties**

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese and Syrian businessmen have called for the creation of a joint bank and holding company to bolster bilateral private investments to counter growing Arab-Israeli econo-

The recommendation, initially called by Syria, was made Saturday, ahead of next week's Middle East economic summit in Jordan. Both Syria and Lebanon are boycotting the conference.

U.S. and Israeli officials have said the Oct. 29-31 economic summit in Amman will launch a development bank for the Middle East and North Africa to foster regional cooperation and joint development schemes.

The businessmen, who held talks in Beirut, also stressed the need to encourage private investments in Syria and Lebanon and suggested credit facilities as well as the scrapping of customs

"Syria and Lebanon must confront economic challenges which are bred by regional developments and agreements struck between Arab countries and Israel," Lebanese prime Minister Rafik Hariri told the businessmen.

Syria's Industry Minister Ahmad Nizameddin said Damascus backed "anything which reinforces common Arab action but is opposed to anything which divides their

Syria and Lebanon are bound by a 1991 treaty of brotherhood, cooperation and coordination" and in 1993 signed an annexe to bolster social and economic ties

between the two countries. Last may they further consolidated ties by setting up a private body grouping businessmen from the two countries.

to "adopt a code of conduct to push out those who organise such trips."

It also called on countries to reach agreements with others to "make it easier to take action against tourists taking part in illegal sexual

activities involving minors. Germany, Britain, Sweden and Australia have already toughened up their legisla-tion and begun legal proceedings against their nationals accused of paedophilia

Several of the major tourist companies are "also cooperating to circulate information because they want to clean-up at home," Mr. Frangialli

The group has targetted sex tourism for several years and drawn up a wealth of information about the phenomenon after consultations with the U.N.'s committee for human rights, Interpol and non-governmental orga-nisations such as End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism, based in Bangkok.

The WTO wants to "have a more long-term vision and is looking to help the affected countries to develop tourism in other areas," Mr. Frangialli added.

It has already drawn up plans for an \$800,000 project in the Philippines between 1990 and 1992 and a \$1.4 million project in Sri Lanka from 1991 to 1994 with the help of the U.N. Development Programme.

In the Philippines, where the sex enthusiasts come mainly from Japan, authorities have just announced a series of strict measures and closed down several estab-

Sweden and UNICEF are to organise a world conference in Stockholm next August on the sexual exploitation of children.

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A review of news from the Arabic press

Jordan will not change Aqaba status

* ANY TALK about minimising the role of the Aqaba port to the benefit of the tourism sector in Jordan is false and harms national principles, Ports Corporation Director General Dureid Mahasneh said. Noting that the port is Jordan's only sea outlet and earns the Treasury a JD 75 million annual income, Dr. Mahasneh said minimising the role of the port was a suggestion from the Israeli foreign minister that was rejected along with the idea of having a joint Jordanian-Israeli port. The corporation's chief said the port handled 13 million tonnes of goods during the first nine months of this year although its actual capacity can reach 30 million tonnes. He noted that the decline was a result of lower Iraqi imports passing through the port. Iraqi imports accounted for 70 per cent of the port's operations (Al Aswag).

New bank shares' over-subscribed

* SUBSCRIPTION IN shares floated by the Export and Finance Bank totalled 6.7 million shares, 1.7 times more than the four million shares offered for public subscription. As such, the allocation will be at a rate of 58 per cent (Al

Israeli firm hires Jordanian engineers

★★ AN ISRAELI telecommunications company hired 15 computer engineers, Israeli Economy and Planning Minister Yossi Beilin said. He added that Israeli-Jordanian cooperation in this field was not expected as he anticipated the cooperation to be in the textile and foodstuff areas due to the low wages paid by Israeli employers. The minister said some Israeli textile factories in Egypt employ hundreds of labourers (Al Aswaq).

Israeli market to be studied

☆☆ THE JORDAN Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation is about to prepare a study on the Israeli market to provide Jordanian exporters with information about the Israeli market. The corporation will start promoting Jordanian products in the Israeli market

350 to 360 for summit

☆☆ BETWEEN 350 and 360 personalities from the Jordanian private sector will be participating in the Amman economic summit, according to a list recommended by the executive committee of the private sector and sanctioned by the minister of industry and trade who is the president of the preparatory committee for the summit. This number is the largest of any private sector from Arab or international participants. However, the number of those who will attend the opening ceremony will only be 110 persons due to limited space at the Palace of Culture. Jordan's public sector will be represented by 200 officials (Al Ra'i + Al

Jordan Times Tel: 684311 / 699634

Cairo Amman Bank



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Gold	382.65	7.50	. 511ver	5.38	0.100
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U.S. Dellar	0.7080	0.7190
Sterling Pound	1.3160	1.1216
Destuche Mark	0.5099	0.5124
Swim Franc	0.6245	0.6176
French Franc	0.1442	0.1455
Japone Yes*	0.7083	0.7118
Dutch Gullder	0.4552	0.4575
Swedich Kropz	49944	44100
Calien Lira*	0.6442	0.0444
Belgian Franc	*******	*****

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Currency	Bid	Offer	
Sebrated Disser	1.8620	1.2780	
Laborate Lint"	0.043535	0.044375	
Seed Riyal	0.7445	0.1898	
Kattelli Diese	2.3070	2.3670	
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Omnai Riyal	1.8330	1.1410	
UAE Dirtum	0_1922	0.1953	
Grack Drackton"	0.2895	Ø.3 <u>175</u>	
Cypriot Found	1.5376	1.6125	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One U.S. dollar 1.3558/68

1.3890/00 1.5558/68 1.1336/46 28.59/63 4.8962/12 1614.1/5.6 99.87*l*97 6.6950/50 6.1500/50 5.4041/41 1.4160/80 0.7492/97

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Canadian dollar **Deutschemarks** Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese ven Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns Singapore dollars Australian dollars Hong Kong dollars

One sterling \$1.5754/64 One ownce of gold \$382.45/382.75

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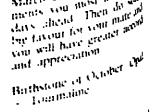
in Amman











Unseeded Dewulf beats Muster

VIENNA (R) — Unseeded Belgiana Filip Dewulf caused a major upset in the Austrian CA tennis trophy on Sunday, triumphing over favourite Thomas Muster in a hardfought four set match.

Cool-headed Dewulf lifted his first major victory and \$66,000 in prize money after beating world number three Muster 7-5, 6-2, 1-6, 7-5. A furious Muster, sensing

his dream of winning in Vienna for the first time slipping away, smashed his racket in half in the third game of the last set, earning himself a warning from the umpire.

The game proved to be a turning point as Muster, too often wrong-footed by his agile 23-year-old opponent, missed a simple forehand to an open court giving Dewulf the game and renewed confidence to take the match.

It was Muster's second defeat on home territory this year, losing to Spain's Alberto Costa at the Austrian open in Kitzbuehel in August.



Thomas Muster

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landside system for berths

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for berths, are invited to participate in the above

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from the Government Tenders Directorate in

Amman as of Oct. 24, 1995, in accordance with

Renovation and rehabilitation of cathodic

protection for landside system for berths (3 to 10)

at Aqaba, general cargo which includes designing

calculation, procurement, installation testing and

2- Offers which include conditions or reservations

3- The latest date for the purchase of tenders

4- A pre-bid conference will be held at The Ports

Corporation / Aqaba, at 9 o'clock a.m., on

6/11/1995 and a visit will be arranged on the same

5- Fee for each set of tender documents is JD 50,

6- Bids are to be submitted to the Government

Tenders Directorate not later than 13.00 hours

Eng. Nasser El-Madadha

Director General

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The Austrian sports media had hoped for a final pitting-Muster against Germany's Michael Stich. But Stich was forced to retire from the tournament after tearing a ligament in a quarter-final

Dewulf; who saw off eightseed Jonas Boerkman of Sweden in the semifinals. stunned the partisan crowd at the Vienna Stadthalle Stadium who fully expected their hero Muster to sail through the match.

The Blegian drew an audible gasp from spectators when he clinched the first set by returning a fast-moving lob from Muster with a confident cross-court smash.

Dewulf broke Muster's serve twice in the second set by deploying an array of deft shots, replying to the Austrian's powerful strokes with delicate drops which left Myster rooted to the back

In an attempt at a comeback, Muster took less than 20 minutes to take the third set with his trademark power serves winning two games to love. But after losing his serve game twice. Dewulf was clearly content to reserve his energy for the next and

Despite taking the fourth set to 12 games, Muster failed to keep up the winning streak, losing his service game with two double faults to give Dewulf the match.

Dewulf who began here as number 119 in the world. travels to his next tournament in Brest in France rank-



Wayne Ferreira

Whitaker wins show jumping meet

MONTERREY, Mexico the \$1.5 million purse in Pul-(AP) — John Whitaker of sar Crown, and he has (AP) - John Whitaker of Great Britain has won the \$450,000 Pulsar Grand Prix International Show Jumping Competition held in Monterrey's club Hipico la Silla.

On the last day of the four-day event, Whitaker captured the prize in the second round of the Grand Prix, riding 16-year-old Everest Grannusch.

"The course was quite difficult especially since number three," said Whitaker. "Grannusch had to go wide to make the jump. That's where the time fault came

Whitaker also qualified for

already won a minimum prize purse of \$25,000 for his win Sunday.

And if he wins the next two in Luxembourg and Valkens-waard, the Netherlands, he will be awarded \$1.5 million prize next year.

If he wins only one of the two, his total purse will still be \$600,000.

Whitaker won the competition by achieving the lowest number of total faults over the two rounds with a clear first round and 0.25 time fault in the second for a combined total of 0.25 faults.

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Ferreira upsets Sampras in Lyon final

LYON, France (R) - Fourth seed Wayne Ferreira of south Africa played a sensational match to upset world number two Pete Sampras in the final of the \$600,000 Lyon men's tennis Grand Prix on Sunday.

Ferreira, throwing caution to the wind as he risked winners on virtually every shot, triumphed 7-6, 5-7, 6-3 in a gripping match lasting two hours 13 minutes.

The American top seed, seeking a fourth tournament victory in Lyon, was let down

by his first serve but it was his opponent's ability to pull off surprise winners and hit the lines almost at will which caused his downfall.

An elated Ferreira said: "I played one of the best matches I could play. I was hoping I wouldn't get tight at the end. I just put on the pressure the whole match and never let

Sampras, who had not lost a set all week, looked likely to sweep Ferreira aside as well when he ran up a 3-0

But the South African, tentative till then, decided to go on the offensive. breaking Sampras before levelling at 3-3 and then going on to a tiebreak which he played impeccably to win

Sampras looked more solid in the second set, which he won 7-5, but Ferreira again gained the upper hand when he broke to lead 3-1 in the third in a game which lasted more than 10 minutes.

cracked when serving to save the match at 2-5, doublefaulting three times, twice to give the South African match

But a big serve and an unforced error by Ferreira on a simple forehand kept him in the match as he pulled back to 5-3 and he earned two break points in the next game before the South African finally triumphed on his third match point.

Italian soccer roundup

Milan held to draw by upstart Vicenza

ROME (AP) — Upstart Vicenza held league-leading AC Milan to a I-1 draw Sunday, but the red-andblack's closest pursuers failed to gain ground in the Italian first division.

Roberto Murgita's header in the 48th minute equalised for Vicenza, promoted from Serie B this season, Midfielder Stefano Eranio fiad put Milan (5-1-1, 16 points) ahead in the 43rd. AC Milan, alone in second

place heading into the round, drew 1-1 at As Roma, while Lazio of Rome, which had held third place, played a scoreless draw at Internazionale of Milan.

Parma, Juventus of Turin (a 3-1 winner over Padova). and Napoli (which beat Piacenza 1-0) remained two points behind Milan with identical 4-2-1 records. Lazio, the league's only undefeated club, is another point back at 3-4-0.

In other matches Sunday, it was: Sampdoria 2, Fiorentina 1, Udinese 1, Torino 0, Bari 3, Cagliari 0, and Cremonese 1, Atalanta 1.

Vicenza 1, Milan 1

At Vicenza, the hosts (3-2-2) controlled the midfield, outplaying Milan's cast of internationals but failing to convert good scoring oppor-

OUTSTANDING

IRONWORKS

tunities. One-time Italian in-ternational Eranio turned in a precise feed from Liberation-born striker George Weah to give Milan an unmerited lead. Just after halftime, Murgita leaned to head in Uruguayan defender Gustavo Mendez's free kick. French midfielder Marcel Desailly appeared to his the winner for Milan in the S5th but the linesman waved off the goal, ruling that winger Gianluigi Lentini had interfered with goalkeeper Luca

Roma 1, Parma 1

Mondini.

At Rome, Italian international midfielder Dino Baggio continued his penchant for key goals with club and country, threading a low, angled shot between the post and goalkeeper Giovanni Cervone in the 75th minute to salvage the draw. Uruguayan striker Daniel Fonseca had put Rome (1-4-2) up by heading home a cross from substitute forward Francesco Totti in the 46th minute for his first goal of the season.

Inter 0, Lazio 0

At Milan, Inter (2-3-2) packed its backfield to stymie the powerful Lazio offense and rarely generated threats

Juventus 3, Padova 1

At Turin, rising star Alessandro del Piero scored for the second straight Sunday, nailing a 25-metre free kick in the 39th minute. Fellow Italian international Fabrizio Ravanelli added his fourth goal of the season from 2 metres in the 55th. After forward Nicola Amoruso put the ball past charging goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi in the 77th for Padova (0-1-6), mid-fielder Antonio Conte netted Juve's third goal in injury

Piacenza 0, Napoli 1

At Piacenza, goalkeeper Massimo Taibi sent the ball into his net off a free kick by Napoli's Brazilian defender Andre Cruz for an own-goal in the 68th minute. Piacenza fell 2-1-4.

Sampdoria 2, Fiorentina 1

In Genoa, little-used midfielder Fausto Salsano tallied the winner in the 72ndminute, putting in the re-bound of Serbian midfielder Sinisa Mihailovic's powerful 40-metre free kick.

The hosts (2-3-2) took the lead in the Ilst minute on Filippo Maniero's acrobatic score betore Portuguese midfielder Rui Costa equalised for Fiorentina (4-0-3) from the penalty spot in the 55th.

Udinese 1, Torino 0

At Udine, German striker Oliver Beirhoff scored on a penalty kick after he was pulled down in the area by defender Roberto Bacci in the 73rd minute. Bierhoff's six goals are second in the league. Udinese improved to 3-2-2, while Torino is 1-3-3.

Bari 3, Cagliari 0

At Bari, a lifeless match

turned explosive in the second half, with Swedish striker Kennet Andersson netting his first goal in Italy in the 54th. League-leading scorer Igor Protti hitting scored off a diving header from 12 metres in the 61st for his seventh goal and Colombian forward Miguel.

inade it 3-0 for Bari (2-2-3) in
the \$2nd.

Cagliari (2-1-4) had gone three straight matches without a loss after starting the season 0-0-3.

Cremonese I. Atlanta I

At Cremona, Serbian midfielder marko Perovic turned in winger Andrea Tentoni's cross one minute before halftime to gain the draw for Cremonese (0-2-5). Atalanta (2-3-2) had gone ahead in the 23rd on Domenico Morfeo's running shot, his second goal in as many matches.

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The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1 Page 10 Page
1NT Page 3NT Page
Page Page

Opening lead: Two of a

The French phrase for this type of illusion in painting is bromp d'oril tricking the eye. There are many examples at the bridge table. Consider this deal. North has a close decision between an invitational two no

trump and the raise to game. The fifth diamond is just enough to tip the scales in favor of the latter. West leads the two of spades against three no trump. Plan the

not to hold up on the first trick. Since West's two of spades suggests no more than four cards in the suit and you don't want a heart shift, you win the first spade. Now it is a question of which minor suit to attack.

question of which minor suit to attack.

With nine clubs headed by the ace-king in your two hands, that certainly appears to be the logical suit to attack. If clubs are 2-2, you will have nine tricks. However, the odds favor a 3-1 division, and in that case you will be down to only eight tricks and have no time to set up a ninth before the defenders collect five — two snades, two dia-

up a ninth before the defenders col-lect five — two spades, two dia-monds and a club.

Even if diamonds are 5-0, you can set up three tricks in the suit and, if the spades are indeed 4-4, the defenders can take only four tricks, two spades and two diamonds, before you gather in nine — three tricks in diamonds, and two in each other suit.



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Vicenza

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NBA superiority not threatened yet

That's the record of NBA teams against international clubs in the seven editions of the McDonald's Championship — and there's no evidence to suggest the streak will end anytime soon.

The Houston Rockets upheld the NBA's supremacy by easily winning the sixteam event, which was billed this year as an unofficial world championship for

This was the first time the tournament featured all championship teams, including the reigning NBA champs. The outcome only confirmed that the NBA's best is still a class above the rest of the world.

The gap is closing, but they don't have the depth to compete with American players," Rockets coach Rudy Tomianovich said.

Case in point. The rockets played without superstar Hakeem Olajuwon, out with elbow and back injuries, but free-agent acquisition Mark Bryant stepped in and did a fine job at centre.

The rockets blew out the Australian champion Perth Wildcats by a tournament record 44 points in the semifinals and cruised to a comfortable 126-112 win over Italian champion Buckler Bologna in Saturday's title game.

While the Australian and Italian teams stayed close for the first half, both games, turned into routs once the Rockets picked up their fastbreak offense in the third

With former dream teamer Clyde Drexler pushing the ball upcourt, soaring to the basket or dishing off to Robert Horry, the Rockets were clearly in another

Drexler, who had 25 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds in the final, was voted the tournament's most

valuable players. While U.S. amateur teams have suffered numerous losses in international competition in recent years, experts say it's still a long way off before the supremacy of a U.S. dream team or NBA champion will be challenged.

Significantly, the best allaround player on the international teams in London was a former NBA veteran, Orlando

LONDON (AP) — Fourteen Woolridge. After a 13-year career in the NBA, Woolridge is excelling in Europe at the age of 35.

Wooldrige scored a tournament-record 91 points in three games for Buckler Bologna, including 34 against the Rockets. While acknowledging the superiority of the Rockets, he said Buckler could have a chance against lower-level NBA clubs.

"I know I've played on some teams in the NBA we could beat," he said.

Former NBA star Tom Chambers, who played his first games in London with Maccabi Tel Aviv, said he was surprised at the level of play abroad. There is not as much dif-

ference as people think," he said. "In the States, they think basketall is no good over here. But I think it's very good and a good second choice if you're not an NBA

caliber player."

One player who proved be could be of NBA caliber was Buckler's Croatian guard, Arijan Komacek. He scored 85 points in three games and showed why several NBA teams have expressed interest

in signing him.
"I could see him playing in the NBA," Tomjanovich said. "He really has a nose for putting the ball in the

Komacek would join a line of other Croatian players who starred in the McDonald's Open and went on to play in the NBA: Drazen Petrovic, Dino Radja and Toni Kukoc.

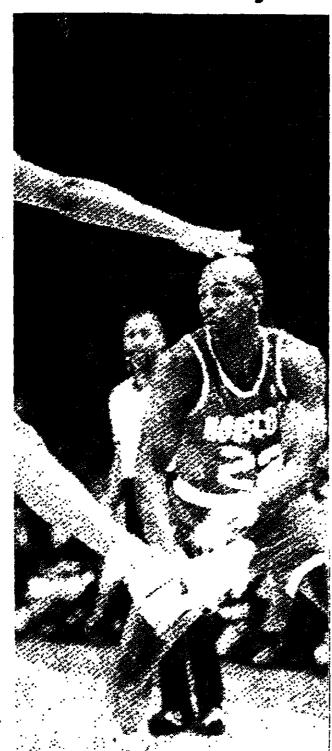
Rocket's backup guard Sam Cassell said it won't be an easy adjument for

"He gets a lot of calls over here," he said. "In the NBA. he would have to earn that. But if he comes over and plays, he would make some-body a pretty good shooting' guard or small forward." Cassell, who had 23 points

and seven assists in just 22 minutes against Buckler, made a strong case for getting more playing time. He could push Kenny Smith, who had a poor game with seven points on three-for-10 shooting from the field, for the starting point guard job.

"I want to play 40 minutes a game," Cassell said. "I'm 25. I've got fresh legs. This is the time to give me the quali-

For Eng. Electronics & Heavy Industries PLC



Clyde Brexler

ty minutes." The NBA and FIBA took the McDonald's Championship to London to help raise the profile of the sport in a country where soccer, rugby and cricket dominate.

The event drew enthusias-

tic crowds, including a sellout

of 10,700 for the championship game, the second biggest audience ever to watch a basketball in Britain.

However, organisers must have been disappointed with the minimal coverage given the event by British newspap-

Cruyff criticises referee after banishment to benches

coach Johan Cruyff, banished to the stands early in his team's 1-0 home win over Valencia on Sunday, has lambasted referee Manuel Diaz

Vega.
"When he doesn't whistle for the very first against a 19-year-old (Albert Celades), it's difficult to know what to

say," Cruyff said.
"It's not a question of swift action but of attitude. One example: We broke through to the edge of the box 1,000 times and he didn't blow for a single free-kick on the edge of it. He gave them five at

"It's a good job I had my seat reserved in the stand." It was the fourth time Cruyff has been sent packing from the bench during his reign as coach at Nou Camp. In Italy's Serie A, the de-

but of Internazionale New English coach Roy Hodgson carned a cautious vote of approval following Sunday's 0-0 home draw with Lazio.

Hodgson, who took over at Inter just a week ago, made both tactical and personnel changes, recalling veteran defender Giuseppe Bergomi and midfielder Alessandro Bianchi, while moving sweeper Salvatore Fresi to midfield in a new 4-4-2

"Inter displayed unexpected concentration and team work, and ending up by looking a more determined side than their fading oppo-nents," said the Turin daily La Stampa.

The Rome sports daily "Corriere Dello Sport" commented: "The new Inter bore the stamp of the man called in to save the club, a man capable of giving the team a new, surprising and intriguing identity."

Club owner Massimo Moratti took a more positive view, saying: "I saw an aggressive, concentrated Inter today ... if you think that these results have been achieved in just four days, then I'd almost be tempted to call them prodigious."

Hodgson now faces a critic-

al week in which Inter play a one-leg Italian Cup tie away to third division Fiorenzuolo



on Tuesday, prior to facing city rivals and league leaders AC Milan in the traditionally competitive Milan derby next

Milan held on to their two point lead over joint seconds - Juventus, Parma and Napoli despite a less than impressive 1-1 away draw to surprise packet Vicenza.

Milan striker, Liberian Georges Weah will miss Wednesday's Italian Cup tie away to fourth division Forli and is doubtful for Sunday's derby after pulling a thigh muscle against Vicenza, in a game which did not please Milan coach Fabio Capello:

"We might be on top of the table, but I'm never satisfied. You cannot give away an equaliser with a header from spot kick," Capello said.

Bayern Munich club President-Franz Beckenbauer was equally scathing about his team's 1-0 win over St Pauli on Saturday, even though Bayern have won eight out of their 10 Bundesliga matches and are now three points clear of champions Borussia Dormund.

"There are three or four players in the team who are constantly below par," fumed Beckenbauer, commentating on the match for German television. "Even a school team doesn't make mistakes like ours.

"We have invested a lot of money and bought good players and I want to see the result of that - good football," he said.

Paris St German returned to peak form after a bleak spell at just the right time, beating Auxerre 3-1 on Sunday four days before Thursday's visit to Metz for a clash of the giants with the current

league leaders.
The Parisians leapfrogged over Auxerre into third place, closed the gap on Metz

to four points after the leaders could only draw 0-0 in Lille in Saturday and stepped up the psychological pressure on their rivals.

Metz captain Sylvain Kastendeuch was clearly impress-

"They will start as favourites against us," he said. "Frankly, I saw they have got back the total mastery of the game which has made them such a force in the

last three or four years. "They have the ball almost all the time and, when they lose it, they recover it almost immediately."

Paris goalkeeper Bernard Lama was elated. "We will go to Metz with a different state of mind than we have had lately," he said. "Our result puts the pressure on them. We are the outsiders travelling to play the leaders and I think it will be a great

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12 Mews

Saddam offers more food, promises political change

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, rewarding Iraqis for his overwhelming referendum victory last week, has increased their food rations and promised parliamentary elections early next year.

From December each Iraqi will get seven kilogrammes of flour a month instead of six kilogrammes and 750 grammes of vegetable oil instead of 625 grammes, an official statement in Monday's newspapers said (see page 2).

The government had cut the flour ration from nine kilogrammes a month in September 1994 becasue under U.N. sacntions it could not raise the foreign exchange for imports.

President Saddam ordered the increase at a joint meeting on Sunday of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council and the Baath Party. held to review the Oct. 15 referendum in which over 99 per cent of voters voted Saddam Hussein president for seven more years.

Ministers had already said they expected the parliamentary elections, the first in seven years, and the statement made this formal. It set no date but under the current law they should take place by

the end of February.
The rations, which also contain rice, sugar and tea, have been highly effective, providing millions with staple items at give-away prices. The food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said last week they had prevented famine in Iraq.

But the current ration covers only 38 per cent of average calorie requirements and 43 per cent of their protein. Iraqis must buy the rest of their food on the open market, where prices can be more than a thousand times

UNITED NATIONS (R) —

Palestinian leader Yasser

Arafat told world leaders on

two states, one Jewish and

"The history of the United

Nations and its resolutions

permanent legal, political

and moral responsibility," he

KDP claims

advance on

PKK bases

ANKARA (Agencies) -

Party (KDP) said about 2,500

of its fighters were closing in

on Kurdish Labour Party

(PKK) guerrillas in the rug-

ged Khwakurk district near

Iraq's border with Iran in an

operation begun on Sunday.

where they have enough

over the region," KDP Tur-

key representative Safeen

Dizayee said. "We plan to

clean the area and leave the

PKK in a bad position

throughout the winter," he

The KDP claimed that

over the last six weeks its

fighters have killed more.

than 550 PKK guerrillas.

wounded hundreds before

The KDP put its losses as

It said its forces have

driven the PKK out of Dohuk

province, which borders Tur-

105 fighters killed, along with

and taken 90 prisoner.

90 civilians.

power to exert an influence

"Khwakurk is the last area

one Arab.

higher.
The increase compensates to some extent for inflation. which for foodstuffs was on average about 14 per cent a month between June 1993 and August 1995, according

to FAO figures.

The government has been financing grain purchases by printing money, adding to hyperinflation. A FAO report last week

said the system was unsustainable and the government and the United Nations must agree on a system giving the government access to foreign currency, either by unfreezing Iraqi assets or through oil

The official statement portraved the parliamentary elections as the next step in what Iraq rulers say is a transition to constitutional rule. 27 years after the military coup which brought the Baath Party to power in 1968.

It said: "The great experiment in the field of applying authentic democracy is an additional incentive to the leadership, the party and the people to go forward in deepening and developing the democratic march.

"It has been decided early next year to elect a new National Assembly according to the National Assembly law and within the framework of the concepts of the (Baath) Party and the (1968) revolution," it added.

Political reforms announced in 1988 led to elections few months later of the present 250-member National Assembly (parliament). Its four-year mandate was extended because of the U.N. sanctions imposed since

Iraq has several political parties but all of them are allied with the ruling Baath Party in a national front.

placement and scattering in

all parts of the world, as well

as to the wars and massacres

which have been inflicted

UAE call hailed

Baghdad meanwhile welcomed a call by the president of the United Arab Emirates to lift the U.N. sanctions on Iraq and urged a broad-based Arab effort to "end the crime of the embargo.'

The official Iraqi News Agency, quoted Baghdad's government-run Al Chawra daily as hailing the Oct. 15 statement by the UAE lead-er, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan.

The newspaper, mouthpiece of Iraq's ruling Baath Party, said: "The initiative of Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan and the Arab response to it, opens for the Arabs, including Iraq, new roles guaranteeing the re-formation of their brotherly relations to build the present and the future.

Sheikh Zayed said that the crippling sanctions should be lifted to end the suffering of

Iraq's people.
The 22-member Arab League, Egypt, Sudan and Qatar have voiced support for Sheikh Zayed, who also urged reconciliation in the Arab World, which was split over the Iraqi invasion.

Dubai's crown prince has

also called on Arab countries to help the Iraqi people by working to lift the sanctions. Sheikh Mohammad Ben Rashid Al Maktoum was speaking in an interview with German television station.

"I am very happy with the remarks of the president and his call for ... returning Iraq to the Arab fold," said Sheikh Mohammad, who is also UAE defence minister.

"I ask, on the basis of the president's call, all Arab countries and especially the Gulf states to help the Iraqi people by lifting the sanctions and extending immediate aid

Arafat says U.N. must continue to back Palestinians the peace process because they desired to "turn over the leaf of killing and destruc-tion, once and for all, so that the Palestinian people and

> dent states on the basis of Reconciliation must be completed on all other Arab-Israeli negotiating tracks, particularly with Lebanon and Syria, he said.

"In order to be just and comprehensive, peace must also include the peoples of Iraq and Libya," he added, referring to two Arab states most strongly opposed to the current peace process.

Recalling his earlier appearance before the assembly, Mr. Arafat said: "I came to you 21 years ago as a with love and peace now that the olive branch has adorned the peace of the brave... good tidings have been heralded. Help us to bring it to frution."

IAF deputies protest joint air show fighter for freedom, liberation and independence, carrying with me the torments of my struggling people. Today, I come to with a heart filled

of Parliament Monday criticised the participation of Royal Jordanian Air Force jets and helicopters in a formation flight over Israel, Jordan and the West Bank. "An aircraft piloted by a Zionist terrorist, who has been raiding our cities, villages and camps, must not be made to fly joyously in the skies of Amman," the deputies said in a statement. "Likewise the Jordanian eagle (the emblem of RJAF)...
must not fly the skies of Palestine except in a mission of jihad," the statement said. The Islamist parliamentarians called for an end to "normalisation between our Armed

Shijtes begin hunger-strike on Bahrain

NICOSIA (AFP) — Seven leading Shiite Muslims began a hunger-strike on Monday to try to force the Bahraini authorities to free 500 political prisoners, spokesman Abdul Wahab Hussein Ali announced. "We have started the hunger-strike," schoolteacher Hussein Ali told AFP when contacted from Nicosia. Joining Mr. Hussein Ali were five religious leaders — Sheikh Abdul Amir Al Jamri, Sheikh Ali Ahmad Al Jed Hafsi, Sayed Ibrahim Al Alawi, Sheikh Hassan Sultan and Sheikh Hussein Dayhi - as well as another teacher, Hassan Msheimaa. The group is demanding the release of those who were imprisoned without trial during violent street protests between December 1994 and April this year, he said. The authorities have since August released 250 people following a deal to free prisoners in return for calm, but the opposition said 500 people remain behind bars. The accord was not announced

Clergy urges Iranians to pray during eclipse

Clinton secures Arab League praise

occupied Jerusalem.

The current U.S. administration's intention to veto the proposed law before Congress on this matter is positive," Said Kam-al, the league's deputy secretary general for Pales-

"The moving of the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem will remain a dream for the Jews but Arab states will strongly oppose any attempt to impose a fait accompli in Jerusalem," Mr. Kamal said.

Congress was to debate Dole.

Mr. Kamal said the timing of the debate "was part interpreted as a sign of of the American presidential election campaign". aiming "to bring in Jewish votes and support."

The French press said meanwhile Mr. Chirac only narrowly avoided a diplomatic trap when the meeting with Mr. Zeroual was cancel-Most added that the can-

cellation by Mr. Zeroual would be greeted with relief by French diplomats. "The Chirac-Zeroual

diplomacy," Algerian offi-

French demands were the last

straw," they said, apparently

alluding to Mr. Chirac's reti-

cence about posing with Mr.

Zeroual for the television

cameras for fear this could be

French support for Mr.

Zeroual in the presidential

"In New York, the latest

cials said.

polls.

meeting was a trap which almost got the president, who was forced to react at the last minute, when the catastrophe was almost on him," said L'Est Republican.

Liberation stressed Mr. Chirac's escape from the dangers which going through with the meeting would have presented.

"The cancellation ... of the Chirac-Zeroual meeting illustrates the extreme difficulty for France to play a role, even as advisor, in Algeria. without being put called into question by one side if not both," it said.

France-Soir pointed out that Mr. Zeroual would be able to make as much political capital out of cancelling the meeting as he would have been able to by meeting Mr. Chirac under the glare of the media spotlight.

city in as many days, witnes-

Government soldiers at the

Qargha military base, about

10 kilometres west of the city,

showed reporters seven fresh

bomb craters after the dawn

They said one person was

wounded in the raid, but the

bombs all fell in open ground

well clear of the main base

and there was no sign of

recent damage to buildings.

Defence Ministry spokes-

man Abdullah said SU-22

jets of the Taliban militia had

carried out the attack, but

had been driven off by anti-

On Sunday, a plane drop-

ped two bombs on a residen-tial district beneath Kabul's

strategic Television Moun-

tain, wounding at least seven people and destroying one house, in an attack the gov-ernment blamed on the Tali-

The air strikes have added

to mounting military tension

between pro-government forces and Talibans fighters

dug into positions in hills

overlooking the southern suburbs of Kabul.

U.N. special envoy

Mahmoud Mestiri has been

trying, so far without success.

to arrange a ceasefire by the

Talibans since they arrived at

the gates of the capital two

"I want to prevent another

battle for Kabul, which

would be very bloody and destructive," Mr. Mestiri told

The Talibans have won

emerged as a new military

control of more than half

Reuters on Sunday.

weeks ago.

aircraft fire.

CAIRO (Agencies) - The Arab League on Monday praised the Clinton administration for opposing congressional attempts to move the U.S. embassy to

tine, told journalists.

later Monday a bill calling for the embassy to be moved to Jerusalem by 1999, sponsored mainly by Senate majority leader and presidential candidate Bob

U.S. President Bill Clin-

ton has announced he would veto the bill, w? ning it would deal a blow to the Middle East peace pro-Israel and the Palestine

Liberation Organisation (FLO) are due to start negotiations covering Jerusalem by May 1996. The Palestinians want the eastern sector as the capital of a. state of their own, at the end of five years of autonomy launched in May 1994. Israel seized and "annexed" the Arab east-

em sector of Jerusalem in 1967, proclaiming the whole city as its "capital". But it has failed to secure international recognition.

. Some 70,000 Israelis signed a petition handed to U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk on Monday backing plans to transfer his embas-Terusalem.

A former Israeli ambassador to Washington linked to the right-wing opposition Likud, Zalman Shoval, was behind the initiative timed for the start of the congressional debate on the proposed transfer.

power a year ago with the

declared aim of sweeping

aside quarrelling guerrilla factions to install a strict Isla-

The black-turbaned Isla-

mic warriors have been nego-

tiating with other opposition

groups in the supreme coor-

dination council on forming a

military alliance to mount a

Afghan President Burha-

nuddin Rabbani, resisting

Taliban demands he surren-

der, says he is willing to

resign only if he can transfer

power to an agreed interim

Mr. Mestiri's efforts to

broker a peaceful solution to

the war appeared to have

fallen on deaf ears, with Tali-

ban commanders refusing to

comply with his call for an

Taliban leaders have dis-

missed the U.N.'s mission in

Afghanistan as futile and

have vowed to push forward

with their military campaign.

officer in the government's 70th division, said government

troops had repulsed three,

during the past three days.
"We are not witnessing any

military movements now," he

said. "The Talibans are re-

maining in their defensive

lines and are not making any

Government troops fired

the occasional rocket towards

Taliban positions as the com-

mander spoke to reporters.

had suffered heavy casualties

on Saturday when govern-

ment planes bombed a supply

convoy heading for Char-

asayab, a Talibans stronghold

He said several dozen

trucks had been carrying

weapons and reinforcements

south of Kabul.

were attr _d.

Afghanistan since they to the Talibans when they

Jalali also said Talibans

movements."

offensives by Taliban fighters

Commander Jalali, an

end to hostilities.

joint attack on Kabul.

mic regime.

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'The world thanks you, look this way'

UNITED NATIONS (AP) _ No fidgeting class of first-graders could have given a photographer a tougher job than the global leaders captured Sunday in a historic U.N. anniversary "class portrait." The final product would make their mothers proud - a sea of smiles from a world of troubles. But it was hardly a trouble-free snapshot. First, the half-dozen or so "no-shows" for the New York celebration - they Germany's included Helmut Kohl and Egypt's

Hosni Mubarak - threw off the intricate composition plans of specialist photographer Paul Skipworth of Dallas. "He had to rebalance the 190 that were left to get the perfect rectangular shape," official U.N. photographer John Isaac said. Skipworth's assistants began bossing these big bosses around: "Move to the right" "this way here." As the "this ways" and "that ways" wore on. President Bill Clinton began joshing with those around him. France's Jacques Chirac began to smirk. Russia's Boris Yeltsin began to look mystified, "Everybody's got to move a half-step this way," ordered. someone

Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto rolled her eyes upward. "That's it. ... Now, everyone remove their name tag and put it in your pocket." Amid laughter, as sari-clad women and African robeclad men searched for a pocket, Skipworth announced, "That's it ... The world thanks you. Look this way "suddenly, a big "smiley-face" banner was unfurled beneath the largeformat camera, the ice was broken, and Skipworth had his once-in-a-lifetime shot: America and Iran, India and Pakistan, Afghanistan and Russia, Israeli and Arabs, all smiles, all at once.

Invitations to U.S. reception 'eaten by dog'

NEW YORK (R) - Seven nations barred from a glittering reception for world leaders hosted by President Bill Clinton to mark the United Nations' 50th anniversary were told their invitations had been eaten by a dog. The list of undesirables featured Iran, Iraq, Cuba, Sudan, North Korea, Libya and Somalia. "There are a number of nations whose invitations got lost in the mail," a senior U.S. official said playfully. "The. dog ate them. Woof." the U.S. accuses Iran, Iraq, Sudan and Libya of sponsoring terrorism, Cuba and North Korea Communist pariahs and Somalia, plagued by factional fighting, has no recognised government.

Mistaken quote offends Iranians

UNITED NATIONS (R) - An error by a White House reporter angered Iranian diplomats at the United Nations, and obliged U.S. National Security Adviser Anthony Lake to try to correct the mistake. The error occurred when the reporter quoted an unidentified U.S. official as saying that only "dognations" were excluded from a presidential reception. The official said the excluded nations included Iran, Iraq, Cuba, Sudan, Libya, North Koreà and: Somalia. "No. A flippant administration official on background did say that the dog — this was with regard to the invitations — that the dog ate the invitations," Mr. Lake said.

Sunday the United Nations upon them.' should continue to sponsor the Israeli people may live This was Mr. Arafat's first the cause of Palestinians until side by side in two indepenappearance before the Unthey achieve selfted Nations in New York determination since a 1974 address in which independence. he said he came "bearing an

Addressing the start of a . olive branch and a freedom three-day special session fighter's gun," adding: "Do marking the 50th anniversary not let the olive branch fall of the United Nations, he from my hand." said all developments in Wearing his military-style

peace making between the Palestinians and Israel has uniform and keffiyeh headdress, he said the U.N. been based on U.N. Security "should continue to sponsor Council resolutions and the our Palestinian cause alongprinciple of land for peace. side of our inalienable The history of the United national rights, including the Nations was "intertwined with that of the question of rights of our people to return, self-determination and Palestine" since a 1947 renational independence.' solution partitioning it into

This meant the U.N. "remains responsible for the cause of our people" because such important issues as the future of Jerusalem, the constitute an expression of its question of Palestinian refugees, Israeli settlements and final borders had been "They make the United left to the final stage of negotiations with Israel, due to Nations a witness to the imbegin next May.

mense suffering of our people and their sacrifices, their dis-Palestinians embarked on

PLO sees Khartoum as venue for Hamas talks

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Orga-nisation (PLO) said Monday that Khartoum was the likely Iraqi Kurdish guerrillas said venue for planned reconciliation talks with the hardline on Monday they had launmovement Hamas next ched a big drive against the final stronghold of rival Turmonth and praised Sudan for its mediation. kish Kurd rebels in the moun-"Thanks to Sudanese tains of northern Iraq.
The Kurdistan Democratic

mediation, there is a strong chance that a meeting between Fateh and Hamas will be held in Khartoum in a month," the PLO's representative to Sudan, Omar Abu Shalashel, told AFP.

"At the moment, Khartoum is making preliminary contacts to fix a date and agenda for the meeting," be-tween Hamas and PLO leader Yasser Arafat's main faction Fatch, he said.

Mr. Shalashel said Sudan. had already hosted talks between the two parties under the auspices of Hassan Tourabi, the spiritual leader of the Islamic regime which took power in Khartoum in

Dr. Tourabi, "whose wisdom, moderation and concern for Palestinian unity is recognised by all, including the West, has called for a dialogue and Hamas as well as Fateh have responded

positively," he said.

turning from three weeks in the Palestinian self-rule area of Gaza, met Saturday with President Omar Al Bashir to brief him in on his talks with Mr. Arafat, who heads the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

Egypt, whose relations with Sudan are tense, has also officially invited Hamas and the PNA to hold talks in Cairo. The Egyptian govern-ment daily Al Ahram has said "the two parties accepted the invitation.

Mr. Shalashel cautioned that an agreement with Hamas was still months off. "There are encouraging

signs that an accord will be reached between Fateh and Hamas before April and the Hamas leadership in the territories will take on a more pragmatic language and attitude," he said.

He said dialogue between the two sides was continuing. "We hope the Hamas leadership in the territories will convince its members abroad to participate." . -After a meeting in Khar-

toum between Hamas's local leadership and its members abroad in early October, the self-rule authority accused the "external" leaders of blocking an accord which loc-Mr. Shalashel, after re- al members were seeking.

Taliban planes bomb **NEWS IN BRIEF** army base near Kabul

ses said.

strike.

KABUL (Agencies) — Two rebel aircraft dropped at least AMMAN (J.T.) - Islamic Action Front (IAF) members seven bombs on an Afghan government military base just west of Kabul on Monday. the second air raid near the

DEPARTURE: An Israeli army truck leaves the military administration headquarters in Jenin, the first West Bank town due to be handed over to the

Palestinian National Authority (PNA) beginning Wednesday (see page one (AFP

Zeroual gets a domestic boost

for cancelling Chirac meeting

ALGIERS (Agencies) -

Algerian leader Liamine

Zeroual emerged Monday in

a stronger position than ever

to crush his political rivals, as

Algerians rallied behind his

decision to cancel talks with

his French counterpart over

perceived infringements of

clap of thunder, has wiped

out all the apparent weakness

and restored political parity

in Algeria's favour," La Tri-

bune daily said.
"Bravo Zeroual," wrote

the pro-government daily

'Authentique, while Al

Umma said the decision was

a slap in the face" for

The praise followed Mr.

Zeroual's abrupt cancellation

Sunday of a meeting in New

York with President Jacques

Chirac, in the wake of critic-

ism of its timing by some

This reassertiveness on the

part of Algeria's leaders in

their dealings with the coun-

try's former colonial master,

came on the first day of the

official campaign for pres-

idential elections in which

Mr. Zeroual is firm favourite.

The polls begin on Nov. 16.

By firmly rejecting what

was seen here as an attempt

by Chirac to meddle in Alger-

ia's volatile politics, analysts

said, Mr. Zeroual donned the

mantle of the late President

Houari Boumediene, a fer-

vent nationalist who consistly

denounced French "neo-

When he gets back from

New York, there is no doubt

colonialism."

French officials.

France and for Al Salam.

the end to provocation."

This cancellation, like a

Algerian "sovereignty."

Mr. Zeroual will benefit from

his "firm stand" which was

amplified by the publicity

surrounding the 50th anniversary of the United

Nations which both he and

The Algerians rejected a French version of events

which said it was Mr. Zeroual

who asked to meet Mr. Chir-

ac, claiming that France had

requested the meeting.
They also objected when

France refused to hold the

meeting in front of the televi-

sion cameras, saying Algeria did not conduct its diplomacy

'in a semi-clandestine

Mr. Zeroual's own spokes-

man criticised "official and

semi-official" statements by

French officials which, he

said, amounted to "an attack

on the dignity and sovereign-

Without being specific. Algerian leaders were

thought to be referring to Mr.

Chirac's own statements ab-

out the need to give econo-

mic support to "the Algerian

people" to prevent the coun-

Another remark which

raised hackles here called for

"credible and democratic"

legislative elections to be

The French Socialist Party

called the Zeroual-Chirac

meeting "ill-timed" - a posi-

tion condemned by the Alge-

rian authorities and the Alge-

"In this affair, we were not

reacting to French criticism

which was inadmissible, we

were observing the rules of

try sliding into "chaos."

organised in Algeria.

rian press.

ty" of his country.

Mr. Chirac are attending.

Forces and the enemy's as in all other aspects."

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Shiite Muslim clergy called on the nation on Monday to pray during the solar eclipse expected to be seen in the holy town of Qom in central Iran on Tuesday. The Islamic Propagation Organisation (IPO) said in a statement read on Tehran Radio that people "should pray from the beginning to the end of the eclipse." However, "it is not mandatory for people who live in regions where the eclipse is not visible to pray." Shiite Muslims perform special prayers for most natural phenomena, mainly for solar eclipses. The eclipse is expected to be seen from 5:30 a.m. (01:53 GMT) in Qom, 150 kilometres south of the capital, to 6:22 a.m. (02:52) in the town of Birjand, a 1,000 kilometres away to the east. Several teams of experts and many photographers have travelled to Birjand to watch and register the eclipse, which will be more visible in eastern Iran where the sun rises higher on the horizon. Birjand Governor Mohammad Kazemi said Monday his town was ready to welcome about 5,000 Iranian and foreign visitors who will travel there to watch the most important eclipse in the country in 50 years.